GMA: Lanao del Norte attacks doomed peace talks

Story on PAGE A2

YAAAAK! SARS!!!
UBO
UBO

SARS 'virus' attacks computers

WASHINGTON—A new Internet virus being circulated exploits fears about the SARS epidemic, duping computer users to download programs that can replicate and

SARS/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

4-day vacation coming up for gov't workers

By Dona Pazzibugan

A DAY after Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas told workers to expect an austere Labor Day—no new incentives—Malacañang announced a sop, at least for some government workers.

The Palace yesterday declared May 2 a non-working holiday for state employees

4-DAY/ A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Saturday, April 26, 2003 ★★ 86 pages / 11 sections / vol. 18 / no. 137   P15   website: www.inq7.net

RP 'no longer SARS-free'

Samar woman RP's 4th SARS case

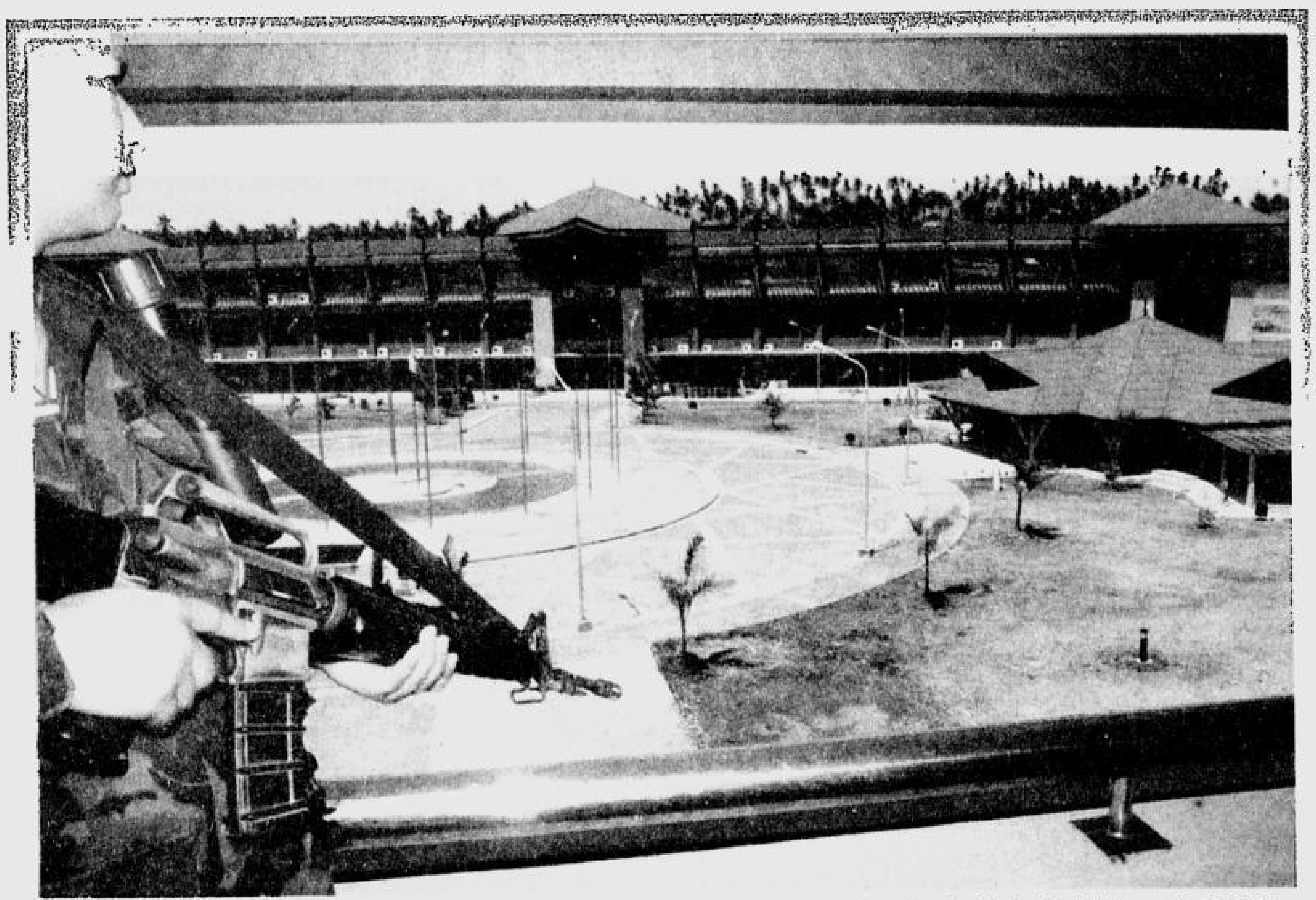
By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The 47-year-old woman known only by initials JP was announced to be the Philippines' fourth SARS case. She was admitted under heavy guard to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC) late yesterday afternoon.

At least eight Special Weapons and Tactics policemen escorted the ambulance that took JP and a team from the Department of Health-Eastern Visayas (DOH-8) to the hospital. They were armed with M-16 rifles and on board two multicabs.

DOH regional director Mila Bacus said JP was classified as a probable SARS case because she had a

SAMAR/ A19



WILL THE GAMES BEGIN? "Palaro," the annual sports event that draws 5,000 student athletes, is scheduled to be held here, the P500-M Mindanao Civic Center in the Lanao del Norte capital of Tubod, which is only two municipalities away from Maigo, the site of a fierce MILF offensive on Thursday. There are now grave doubts if the center built especially for the Palaro on May 4-11 will push through even as the province has been aspiring to host the games since 1977. EDWIN BACASMAS

DOH: Three cases from abroad, one local

By Armand N. Nocum

AFTER insisting for days that certain persons afflicted with atypical pneumonia were merely "probable" SARS cases, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit announced yesterday that the Philippines was "no longer a SARS-free country."

Dayrit said the "local transmission" of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome from Adela Catalon, 46, to her father Mauricio Catalon, 74, had been confirmed through an autopsy of the man's body.

Mauricio died April 22, and Adela April 14.

"Autopsy findings released late [Thursday] showed that [Mauricio] had cancer in the abdomen. However, the lungs showed bronchopneumonia, which could have been the immediate cause of death," Dayrit said at a press briefing at the Department of Health.

He said the DOH had earlier classified Mauricio only as a suspected SARS case because the X-rays were "not definitive of pneumonia."

Dayrit also announced that the Philippines—the ninth country in the world to be classified as "SARS-infected"—had a new SARS case in the person of a 47-year-old woman who returned to her native Eastern

RP/ A18

Dayrit named anti-SARS czar

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo last night gave Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit sweeping powers to contain SARS in the country.

"So Manolet will be the anti-SARS czar," Ms Macapagal said after reading her Executive Order, which was still being drafted as of press time.

Dayrit's powers were laid out

DAYRIT/ A18

Rumors are super spreader of SARS

By the PDI Mindanao, Northern, Central and Southern Luzon Bureaus

RUMORS, baseless or not, are spreading much faster than the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and creating more trouble and alarm than the dreaded disease itself.

People returning from jobs in or trips to places abroad that have been hit by SARS become objects of suspicion and worse, discrimination.

Local government authorities are kept busy trying to parry reports that SARS has reached their doorsteps.

In Baao, Camarines Sur, residents expressed alarm following the arrival of an OFW from Macau, China who was taken to a hospital shortly after returning home.

According to the town's health authorities, the woman manifested symptoms of SARS like high fever.

But Dr. Ferchito Avelino, chief of the regional epidemiology and surveillance unit, dismissed rumors that the woman had SARS.

"We don't have any confirmed report yet of any SARS cases from

RUMORS/ A6

Iraq deputy prime minister yields to US

BAGHDAD—Iraq's deputy premier Tariq Aziz has surrendered, becoming the best known figure of the ousted regime to be in coalition custody, the US military said yesterday. In the United States, President George W. Bush responded to reporters' shouted questions about Aziz's fate with a smile and a thumbs-up sign.

And in a TV interview, Bush for the first time suggested Baghdad may have already destroyed the missing weapons of mass destruction (WMD) used to justify the war in Iraq.

In Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair's office described Aziz's detention as "a welcome development."

Aziz, 67, was the only Christian in Saddam's inner circle, most of whom were Sunni Muslims like Saddam. He served as foreign minister during the 1991

IRAQ/ A18

WHO fears horrifying epidemic if virus spreads …

OH, OH, French PM Jean-Pierre Raffarin coughs in the presence of his host, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. AFP

BEIJING—A World Health Organization official said SARS could become a horrifying epidemic if it spread in China's provinces or in nations like India and Bangladesh, where people live cheek-by-jowl and medical facilities are poor.

With rumors over the epidemic of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome reaching fever pitch, the Beijing government formally denied the city was to be placed under martial law.

But on the streets, police manned roadblocks to prevent sick people from fleeing, prices of foodstuffs in markets surged and students were banned from leaving the capital for the May Day holidays. Authorities also sealed off another major Chinese hospital.

"There will be various countries in the world where we would be really concerned because we don't think they have the capacity to stem the tide once it is introduced," WHO official Wolfgang Preiser told reporters in Shanghai.

"It may have happened already, we don't know."

Cai Fuchao, head of the city's

WHO/ A18

ESCAPE from the Taipei Municipal Ho Ping Hospital which has sealed off 1,000 people who have been ordered to stay put for two weeks. AFP

MINDORO MURDERS

DOJ report pins blame on military

By Michael Lim Ubac, Martin Marfil and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE MILITARY was behind Monday's abduction and brutal killing of two human rights leaders in Oriental Mindoro, a highly placed source in the justice department said yesterday.

The source told the INQUIRER that the Department of Justice had found evidence proving that the military—not vigilante groups—summarily executed Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy.

Asked whether Col. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade in Oriental Mindoro, and his men killed Marcellana and Gumanoy, the source said: "It is possible."

Palparan was ordered relieved yesterday, but both Camp Aguinaldo officials and Palparan himself denied the order. "It is not a relief but a temporary pullout from the position to give way for a fair investigation," the controversial colonel said.

Undersecretary Jose Calida, the head of a five-man team tasked to look into the case, refused to categorically blame the deaths on Palparan.

Calida's team arrived yesterday from its fact-finding mission in Ori-

DOJ REPORT/ A4

Braganza to go on leave; offer to quit not accepted

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has not accepted Press Secretary Hernani Braganza's reported offer to resign.

Braganza will instead go on "medical leave" and use the respite to mull over his future in the administration, Braganza's closest aides said yesterday.

"He'll be reflecting on what may lie ahead for him in the Cabinet. As he has stated in his resignation letter, he can continue helping the administration in a private capacity," said one Palace source.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday confirmed that Braganza had resigned for reasons of health but "it was not accepted."

BRAGANZA/ A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/04/26/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

An MILF extortion operation, says AFP

THE MILITARY yesterday said the attacks in Lanao del Norte by the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front was an attempt at extortion by the rebels.

This was the theory of Armed Forces chief Gen. Narciso Abaya who noted that the assault came just days before the start of the Palarong Pambansa sports competition in the province. *(See related story on Page A23.)*

The military also claimed that the attacks were also meant to embarrass the government at a time it is trying to restart stalled peace talks with the Muslim separatists.

Palarong Pambansa

"We look at it as an attempt to disrupt the Palarong Pambansa, started by Commander Bravo who was asking for protection money. When the local government officials did not succumb to the extortion, that's what he did," Abaya said.

Bravo is the alias of Abdurahman Macapaar, a ranking MILF leader in Lanao del Norte.

Abaya, who spoke to reporters at the formal opening of Balikatan 03 joint military exercises with the United States in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, said the amount being demanded by Bravo ran into the millions of pesos.

He said that before the attacks, the military had received reports from local officials that the MILF was asking for millions of pesos in protection money but that officials refused their demands.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes meanwhile said the attacks were meant to embarrass some government officials, "particularly perhaps the Lanao del Norte officials because we have this Palarong Pambansa supposed to be held from May 4 to 11 in Tubod."

Beefed up

The military has beefed up forces along the stretch of the national highway in Lanao del Norte that had been attacked by the rebels.

"Of course, we know that in Lanao del Norte, that's where most of the power generating plants are, so the military units there have been directed to see to it that we are able to restore normalcy and that the power generating facilities there are secured," Reyes said.

About 500 to 700 MILF rebels participated on the assault, attacking two government outposts, bombing a nearby bridge and strafing a passenger bus. *Martin P. Marfil with a report from AP*

GMA: Lanao attacks doomed peace talks

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday vowed to unleash "firm counter-force" against Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels who launched near-simultaneous attacks on two towns in Lanao del Norte last Thursday even as she indicated the assault may have doomed the peace process.

She denounced the attacks that left 16 people dead and at least 12 injured in the towns of Kolambugan and Maigo as a "travesty of the peace process."

"The perpetrators are terribly mistaken if they think they can obtain concessions in the peace talks by this dastardly act," the President said as she ordered "firm counter-force, active defense of the affected communities and safeguarding of civilians caught in the crossfire."

The President said her administration would not be distracted from its "main task of peace and development."

"I have launched a massive program of interrelated social, economic and cultural measures that will strike deep into the roots of the conflict," she said.

The President launched the Mindanao National Initiative, also known as the Mindanao Natin program, during the 1st Muslim Summit held in Manila last Thursday.

Mindanao Natin is funded with P5.5 billion and will cover 5,000 barangays of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, western and northern Mindanao, Lanao del Norte and Damulog, Bukidnon.

"We shall fight despair with hope, wielding superior vigilance, relentless upliftment of the poor and peace diplomacy," Ms Macapagal said.

But MILF leaders, who have justified rebel attacks as part of their "continuing active defense against military forces," said they were still committed to a peaceful solution to the decades-old conflict in Mindanao.

Government and MILF negotiators met in Kuala Lumpur in late March and agreed to take significant steps to jump-start the stalled formal peace talks, including the exercise of "mutual restraint" in military actions.

'Remain committed'

"We remain committed, determined and optimistic for a peaceful solution of the problem and have been religiously observing all the agreements between us and the government," said Ghazali Jaafar, the MILF chief for political affairs.

While Jaafar talked peace, however, a ranking MILF leader in Lanao del Norte said the attacks were in response to military offensives against the separatist group.

Abdurahman Macapaar, alias commander Bravo, said the attacks on the two Lanao towns last Thursday had been ordered by MILF chair Salamat Hashim.

He said the civilian casualties were not intentional but "collateral damage." At least 12 civilians, including a 3-year-old boy, were injured when the rebels attacked a police detachment, bombed a nearby bridge, strafed a passenger bus and tried to overrun a town hall.

'Reality'

"People will continue to be caught in the crossfire unless the government becomes sincere in negotiating with us. The reality is that the government says one thing and does the opposite," said Bravo.

Jaafar accused government chief negotiator Jesus Dureza of inserting a phrase and annotations in the minutes of the March 28 exploratory talks in Kuala Lumpur which allegedly altered the original meaning of the document.

"It was a very minor act but enough to destroy the whole process if unchecked," Jaafar told dxMS radio here.

MILF spokersperson Eid Kabalu said that what the MILF really wanted were two simple words: sincerity and faithfulness.

"Once these are destroyed and lost, the whole process will collapse, God forbid because it would mean blood in Mindanao," he said.

Lawyer Lanang Ali, the head of the MILF panel at the Kuala Lumpur meeting, said Dureza revised some items in the minutes without the knowledge of the MILF panel and the host country, Malaysia.

"When the document reached Dureza, he inserted some new phrases in the document that changed the meaning and intent of the provisions," Ali said, adding there was no way the annotated document would be approved again because the exploratory talks were over.

Dureza however, insisted his marginal notes and annotations were still subject to approval by both sides and the secretariat in Malaysia.

Ali said Dureza had added a phrase relating to recourse to Philippine judicial processes "which for us means going to court." This was not discussed in the meeting, he said.

Footnotes

The other footnotes that Dureza allegedly inserted indicated that the governments "(does) not recognize MILF camps now when both sides have acknowledged all MILF camps in an agreement in February 1999 and October 1999," said Ali.

He said this would render useless all ceasefire agreements referring to MILF camps, ensuring more future armed confrontations between government and MILF forces, Ali said. *Reports from Carlito Pablo, Metro Manila and Edwin O. Fernandez, Ryan D. Rosauro, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Christine Godinez-Ortega and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Massacre, plain banditry'

OZAMIZ CITY—Many of the civilians caught in the midst of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front attacks on Kolambugan and Maigo towns in Lanao del Norte on Thursday describe the death of the unarmed victims as a "massacre and plain banditry."

Jerry Arcadio, a driver taken hostage by the attacking rebels, told dxOC radio here that the separatist label for the MILF was a misnomer.

Arcadio recounted how his boss, businessman Rally Falame, was ordered to step out of his vehicle at the highway in Kulasihan and shot. Before Falame was killed, the rebels had executed five other civilians.

Kulasihan residents who witnessed the dawn assault told similar accounts. They said civilians, many of whom never had a chance to plead for their lives, were mercilessly shot.

Arcadio said that many of the attackers had demanded that the civilians give them their money and jewelry.

Cleofe Amora, who was among 13 employees and officials of Tangub City traveling in a bus on the Kolambugan-Maigo stretch of the national highway, said the passengers initially thought the men who flagged down their bus were friendly troops.

"But when they got in the bus and asked for our jewelry, that's the time we started to worry," she said.

Renato Ramos, a Tangub bus driver, recalled that the rebel commander had ordered the passengers to "surrender" the SIM cards of their mobile phones but the rebel fighters demanded that they give up their money and jewelry as well. *Ryan D. Rosauro, Lullie A. Micabalo and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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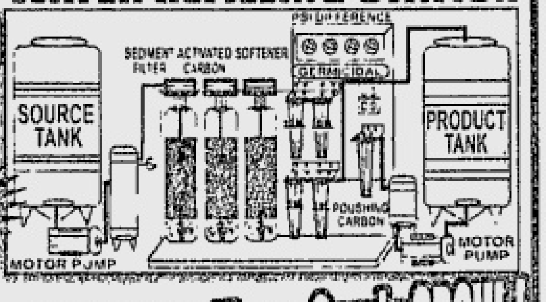

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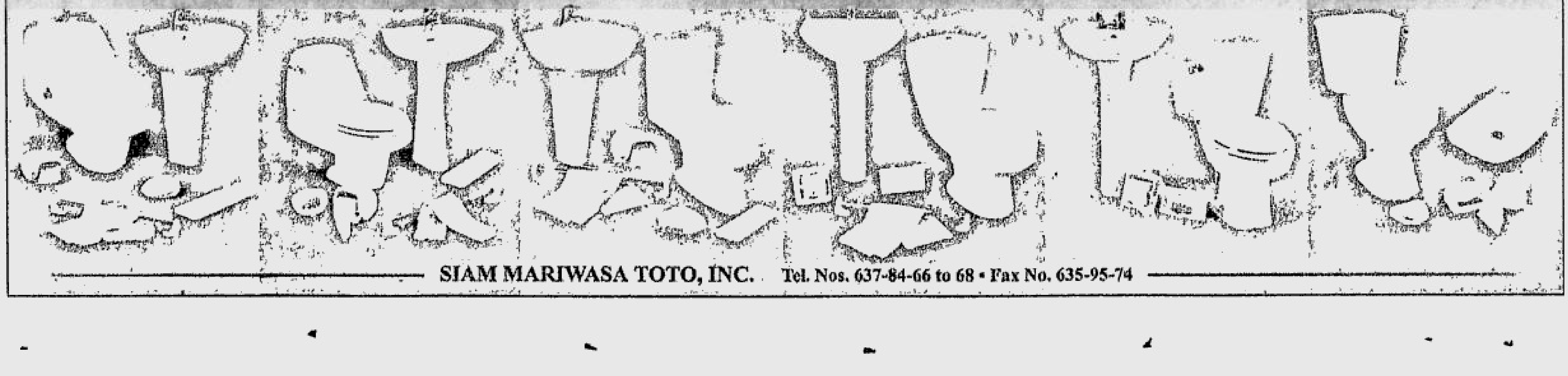

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Ka Roger admits recruitment drive

LUCENA CITY—The New People's Army rebels have intensified their recruitment activities not only in Southern Luzon but also all over the country, communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal admitted yesterday.

"Gen. Alfonso Dagudag was right. We're really presently launching our massive recruitment operations of potential Red fighters. It's a neverending work for the revolutionary forces. Each NPA front averages at least 500 new recruits every year," Rosal told the INQUIRER in a cellular phone interview.

He was reacting to the revelation made by Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, the newly installed top officer of Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command based in Camp Nakar here.

However, Rosal pointed out that even if recruitment of new rebel is much easier, providing them with fighting arms is another.

"There is no other way to arm the new recruits but to also stage tactical offensives against police and military detachment for the much needed firepower," he added.

While touring different military units in Bicol, Dagudag warned against the "massive recruitment" being conducted by several NPA fronts in Southern Luzon.

The NPA's new recruits usually come from farmers, workers, youths and students. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ebdane says PNP revamp necessary

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Philippine National Police chief, defended the PNP reorganization that began on Friday, saying it is needed to achieve a "professional and result-oriented PNP."

The reorganization, however, still does not have the final approval of the National Police Commission.

Ebdane was here Friday during the turnover rites between Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, outgoing Central Luzon police director, and his replacement, Chief Supt. Vidal Querol.

The reorganization will take place in the other regions starting Monday, Ebdane told some 1,000 officers and personnel gathered at this camp's gymnasium.

Ebdane cited the "superb performance" of Calderon in leading the PNP's "premier region."

"We need a dynamic, valiant organization... one that has its feet on the ground... that can adjust and adapt to the realities and situations," Ebdane said.

Ebdane told the INQUIRER that the reorganization had "looked into the potentials of all officers."

"This is the start of putting the people in the right places," he said.

Ebdane said he did not see any problem on proceeding without the Napolcom's final approval.

"I'm an ex-officio member of the Napolcom. I'm the one giving orders (at the PNP) and Napolcom is a collegial body," he told the INQUIRER.

According to him, the PNP's priority is to eliminate organized crimes involved in kidnapping, bank robberies and illegal drugs. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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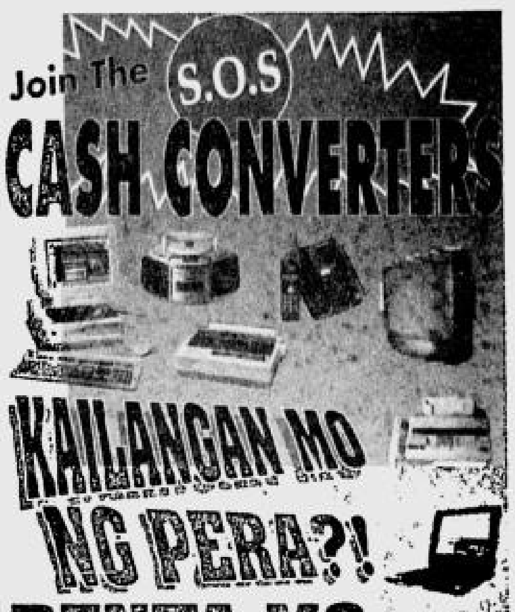

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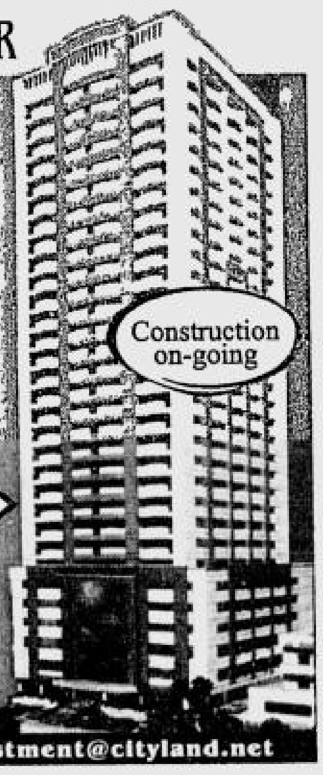

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By Gerald G. Lacuarta

"WILL you be able to accept it if I come home in a casket?"

These were the haunting last words of slain peasant leader Eddie Gumanoy, spoken to his wife Maria, before he and 10 others left for Oriental Mindoro to investigate the killings and abductions of farmers in the province.

"He was a loving husband and a good father," said Maria Gumanoy, 37, as she held back tears while staring at the white coffin that contained Gumanoy's remains, which lay in state at the Church of the Holy Sacrifice inside the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines.

The Gumanoys, whose livelihood depends on the planting of corn, palay and vegetables in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, have six children, the youngest being just three years old.

Maria said she felt uneasy on the night of April 21. "I was awakened from sleep. I thought I heard him calling me from outside the house," she told the INQUIRER.

That night, Gumanoy and at least four other members of a human rights fact-finding mission were abducted by armed men believed to be soldiers along a highway in Oriental Mindoro. The next day, Gumanoy and human rights advocate Eden Marcellana, leader of the team, were found dead in Bansud town.

Maria said her husband was a respected leader not only in the peasant sector in Southern Tagalog but even in Sto. Tomas, where the victim helped townmates as if he were a barangay official.

"We lived a life of sacrifice but I understood what he was fighting for. He was a kind man, and he would give to others even if we had nothing," Ms Gumanoy said in Filipino.

She said two of her children vowed to continue Gumanoy's struggle, and she herself would not be threatened by the killing of her husband. She belongs to an affiliate of Gabriela, a militant women's organization, in Sto. Tomas town.

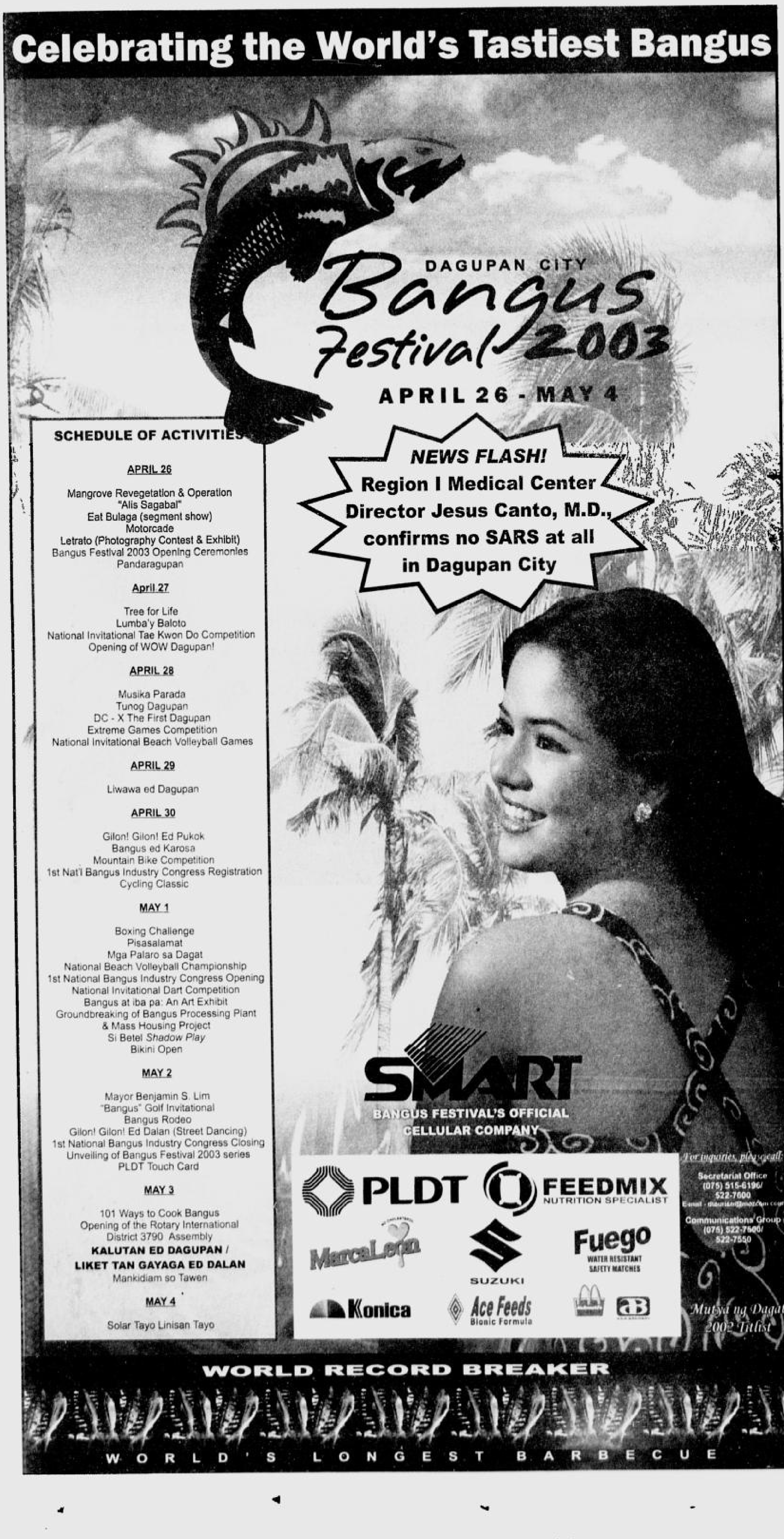
Eden Marcellana's husband Orly said the slain human rights advocate was a caring wife to him and a loving mother to their two children. Orly is secretary general of the Kasama-TK, the peasant organization which Gumanoy headed.

Although the couple were apart most of the time because of their advocacies—with their separation sometimes lasting a month—Orly said Eden always made it a point to look after his welfare even through text messaging. He said Eden was meticulous with his grooming, buying him polo shirts and slacks even if he preferred jeans and shirts.

The couple's two children, aged seven and six, also shared in their sacrifices. They had to stay with their grandparents because of their parents' advocacies.

Orly said although he was prepared for the risks that Eden faced in her work, he didn't expect her to die ahead of him.

"I always thought that I would be first," Orly told the INQUIRER.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APRIL 26

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Motorcade
Letrato (Photography Contest & Exhibit)
Bangus Festival 2003 Opening Ceremonies
Pandaragupan

April 27

Tree for Life
Lumba'y Baloto
National Invitational Tae Kwon Do Competition
Opening of WOW Dagupan!

APRIL 28

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APRIL 29

Liwawa ed Dagupan

APRIL 30

Gilon! Gilon! Ed Pukok
Bangus ed Karosa
Mountain Bike Competition
1st Nat'l Bangus Industry Congress Registration
Cycling Classic

MAY 1

Boxing Challenge
Pisasalamat
Mga Palaro sa Dagat
National Beach Volleyball Championship
1st National Bangus Industry Congress Opening
National Invitational Dart Competition
Bangus at iba pa: An Art Exhibit
Groundbreaking of Bangus Processing Plant
& Mass Housing Project
Si Betel *Shadow Play*
Bikini Open

MAY 2

Mayor Benjamin S. Lim
"Bangus" Golf Invitational
Bangus Rodeo
Gilon! Gilon! Ed Dalan (Street Dancing)
1st National Bangus Industry Congress Closing
Unveiling of Bangus Festival 2003 series
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DOJ report pins blame on military

From page A1

ental Mindoro, but a separate team of National Bureau of Investigation agents is staying put to "follow up the leads which we were able to establish," said Calida.

He said the team felt unwelcome when they first set foot in the province.

"But hopefully, the reign of terror will soon end there," he added.

Suspects known

After an eight-hour investigation on Wednesday, the team were able to establish the identities of the suspects.

"We already know who the suspects are; we know some of their identities, but we will not disclose them yet."

Calida said the NBI team was gathering additional evidence to strengthen the cases to be filed against the murderers.

"We believe (that) in a short time we will be able to crack this case," he added.

Calida ruled out the involvement of vigilante groups.

"We are not buying that because vigilante groups don't usually hide their identities. They don't wear bonnets," said Calida who emphasized that these groups always have a leader.

"In this case, no leader has surfaced yet (to owe up to the murders)," he said.

Calida's team was formed on Wednesday by Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong on the President's orders.

In a press briefing, Calida said he had submitted a confidential first report to the President on Thursday.

He refused to divulge the contents of his report. "Until that is announced, please excuse me from revealing the details."

Asked whether he had recommended the relief of Palparan, he said: "I believe the President has acted on our recommendation, and until that is officially announced I will not make any comment."

Calida said that the initial report was coursed through Datumanong. He said the report named at least five suspects in the killings. He did not disclose their identities, three of which were established through cartographic sketches.

Mere transfer?

Palparan's superiors did not want to use the word "relieved" to describe his status, saying merely that he had been transferred to the office of the 2nd Infantry Division chief, Maj. Gen. Efren Abu, which is under the Southern Luzon Command.

"He is not relieved from the position. I ordered (Abu) to place General Palparan under his office ... while the investigation is going on," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said.

Asked for the right term to use in Palparan's case, Abaya reiterated that the officer would be assigned to Abu's office.

In a phone interview, Palparan told the INQUIRER: "I was not relieved from my Mindoro assignment. Even without the order from my superior, I had already voluntarily refrained from making my presence in the island (felt) after the unfortunate incident especially when the President and my Commander in Chief ordered ... a thorough investigation."

"Remember, I was not in the island when the incident took place," he added.

"I want the investigating body to proceed freely and unhampered," he said.

"This is a long-running conflict. We expect movement of officers," he said. He did not elaborate.

Asked if he would still return to Mindoro, Palparan replied that it was up to his superiors. "I'm a professional soldier," he said.

"Modesty aside, I've also contributed a lot for the progress and development of Mindoro. I gave the local officials the courage to stand up against all adversaries for the good of the majority of the people. For sure, they will also miss all the things that I've done for them," Palparan said.

Col. Juanito Gomez, his deputy brigade commander, has been designated as the acting brigade commander of Palparan's 204th Brigade, Abaya said.

Angry militants

Palparan's relief or temporary pullout did not soothe the anger of human rights activists or the victims' families.

"He should be punished. They should jail him," Gumanoy's 14-year-old son Daniel said at the rally in Mendiola Bridge in Manila yesterday afternoon.

"It should not end there (with Palparan's transfer). The people should get justice. He should pay for his blood debts," said Imelda Lacandazo, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas vice chair.

She said Palparan should have been relieved a long time ago since the abuses in Southern Tagalog escalated after the colonel was assigned to Mindoro.

Daniel said he did not trust the DOJ task force investigating the case.

"I don't believe that. That is propaganda," said Daniel.

Lacandazo said they had filed charges against Palparan before the Department of Justice but these were dismissed.

"They will again hide the facts. We are doing our own investigation," Lacandazo said.

The protesters lighted candles at the foot of Mendiola Bridge. The remains of Gumanoy and Marcellana, which lie in state at the University of the Philippines chapel in Diliman, Quezon City, will be brought to Mendiola today for a protest march.

At the Senate, the head of the justice and human rights committee yesterday said his committee would conduct an investigation into the brutal case.

In a statement, Sen. Francis Pangilinan also called on the Commission on Human Rights to step up its own investigation on the killings.

Pangilinan said he had written CHR Commissioner Purificacion Quisumbing to ask the commission to look into the reported abduction and torture of several human rights workers allegedly by the military in Mindoro.

Sen. Noli de Castro has already filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the Mindoro killings. *With reports from Christine Avendaño and Philip Tubeza*

WAR GAMES KICKOFF

GIs a deterrent to terrorism—GMA

NEARLY 4,000 troops from the Philippines and the United States launched their annual joint military exercises in Luzon yesterday ahead of planned joint military operations against the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping group in Sulu and Mindanao later this year.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the two-week exercise in Luzon (Balikatan 03) would be a "pure training exercise" and would not include any operations against any armed group.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a statement that far from being a magnet to terrorism, the presence of US forces here would be an effective deterrent "because it affirms the principle of transnational vigilance."

She said opponents of the Balikatan exercises were being naive in thinking that US military presence was attracting terrorists to the country.

"A country is more vulnerable to terror when it is alone and without reliable allies," Ms Macapagal said.

"Let us shed off the illusion that our nation will be terror-free if we shed off our security alliance with the United States . . . This is a naive and dangerous thought," she said.

Ms Macapagal also said she expects the US troops to share "many valuable lessons" from the recent US-led war against Iraq.

The war games, involving 1,200 US and 2,500 Filipino soldiers, will be held in military camps in Luzon and near Metro Manila. They are scheduled to end on May 9.

"The objective . . . is to ensure there is interoperability between the US and (Philippine) armed forces elements to respond to threats to security (and) to enhance the long-term capability of the (local) armed forces," Reyes said.

US Colonel Steven Hogg, co-director of the Balikatan 03 in Luzon, said it would "bring forth both our professional militaries in friendship and partnership."

Reyes said the exercises are not connected to the planned deployment of US troops in Sulu by the middle of the year to train Filipino soldiers in their fight against the Abu Sayyaf guerillas, called the Balikatan 03-1.

Both the US and Philippine governments have labelled the Abu Sayyaf as terrorists and have linked the group to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

Several hundred US Special Forces troops trained Filipino soldiers going after the Abu Sayyaf on the island of Basilan last year.

Reyes said the schedule and details for the deployment of the Americans in Mindanao were still being ironed out but affirmed that they would definitely push through.

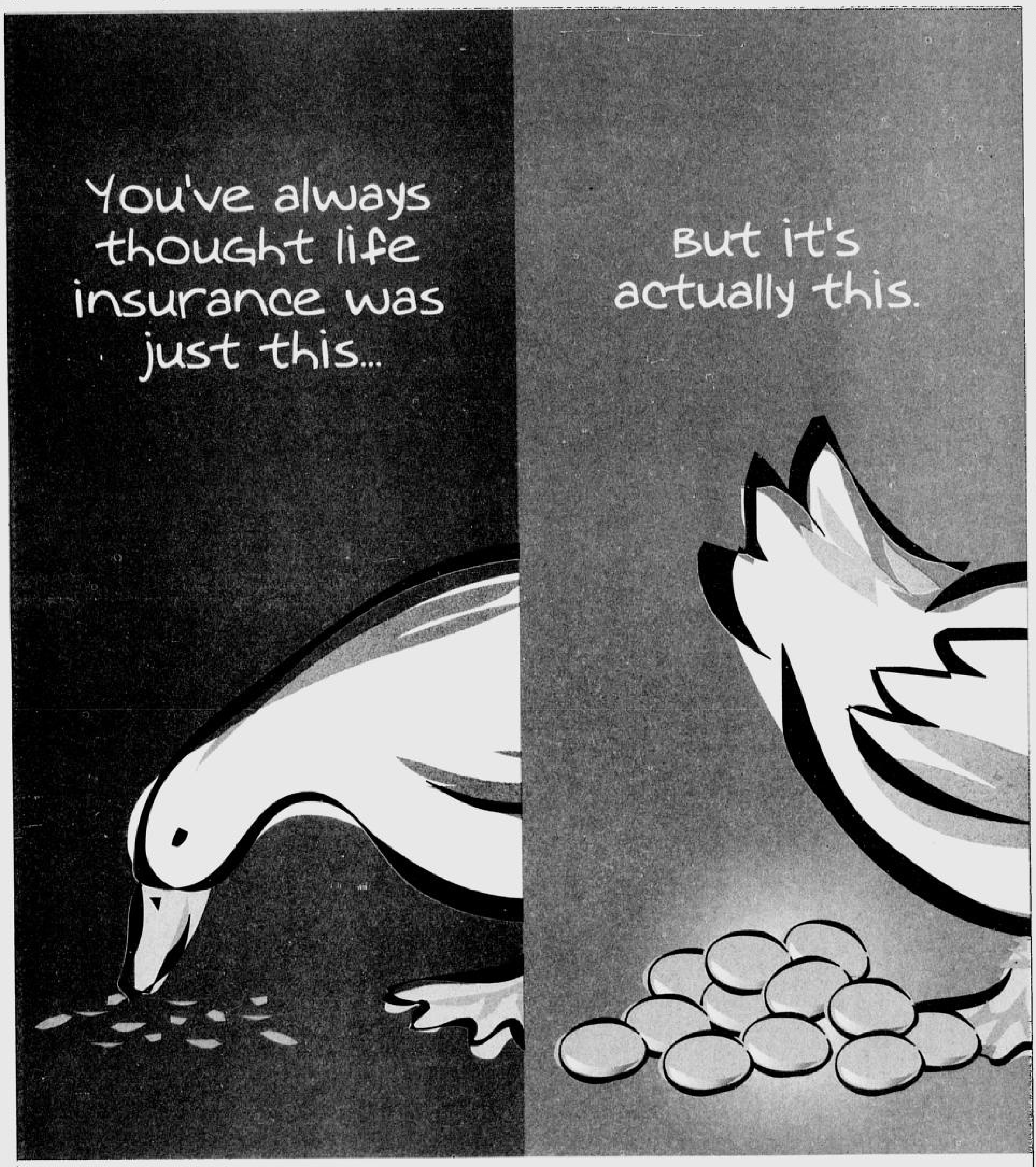
There had been technical disagreements between Manila and Washington over the terms of reference governing the exercises in the south.

The Constitution bars foreign troops from engaging in combat here and US troops in previous exercises could only fire back in self-defense.

In a Radyo ng Bayan interview yesterday, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said US soldiers were facing some danger during the exercises but did not say what these dangers were.

Asked if the security for the US soldiers would be adequate, Bunye said "you can't give 100 percent assurance to those joining this kind of exercise. There are some dangers involved."

"But the dangers will be minimized as much as possible," he added. ***AFP with a report from Dona Pazzibugan***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Local politicians pose problems in rural areas

By Armand N. Nocum

POLITICS and paranoia on the part of local officials, who now control local health facilities, can undermine the government's fight against SARS.

Even Jean Marc Olive, representative of the World Health Organization in the Philippines, expressed fears about how the behavior of local officials could affect the Philippines' capacity to battle SARS.

"If it's a national emergency, they should cooperate," Olive said after learning that JP, the country's fourth SARS case, had earlier been refused admission at the Eastern Samar Regional Medical Center in Tacloban City.

Dr. Rainero Zamora, Samar provincial health officer, said they had planned to take JP to the EVRMC, "but local officials in Leyte objected to putting her there."

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said local politics was among "the problems that we will be facing" in attending to SARS cases in the rural areas.

"Ideally, people [with SARS] should be placed in isolation at the regional hospitals," he said.

But the devolution of health service to local officials can pose a problem, he said, considering that "governors and mayors are known to act according to their interests."

Feast of Mercy

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HOME APPLIANCES

Rumors are super spreader of SARS

BLOCKADE on San Juanico Bridge is set up on Friday afternoon to prevent a suspected female SARS victim from Hong Kong from going to Tacloban to seek medical treatment.

LSDE PHOTO/VEN LABRO

From page A1

Macau," he said.

The disease, he said, won't spread in the Bicol region although there are "some probable cases."

Residents of Baao blamed a local radio station for airing reports about the female OFW who showed symptoms of SARS.

The station said it got the information from the regional director of the Department of Health.

Avelino, however, said the Bicol region doesn't have facilities to treat SARS sufferers.

Quarantine checkpoints have been set up in the region's ports to screen passengers and stop the entry of SARS carriers.

The mayor of Legazpi City has created a task force to monitor possible SARS cases in the city.

The task force was formed after the arrival of a Vietnamese ship created alarm.

The crew of the ship Song Hang, loaded with 118,000 tons of rice, was subjected to quarantine procedures upon their arrival here.

Bicol folk also expressed apprehension over the planned arrival of Chinese diplomats who are scheduled to meet local legislators.

Councilors of Legazpi are now in Manila to arrange for the arrival of the Chinese delegation who are aboard a ship that is now in Sydney.

Laguna

In Sta. Cruz, Laguna, hospital authorities vehemently denied reports aired by a TV station of an OFW who arrived from Hong Kong and went home to Barangay Pagsawitan in the town.

The report said the OFW was infected with SARS and had to be confined at the Laguna Provincial Hospital.

Joyett Vitaliz, nurse at the provincial hospital, said she was not aware of anyone being brought to the hospital for SARS.

Vitaliz said the report may have been intended to create panic.

"It could have been just plain rumor," said Ma. Zian Canon, a resident of Pangil, Laguna, of the TV report.

OFWs who went home to Laguna from Hong Kong are starting to feel discrimination. Some said residents don't want to shake hands with them.

The rumors, according to a school administrator in Dagupan City, could be prevented from wreaking further havoc through a campaign to spread not rumors but "correct information" on SARS.

Lawyer Gonzalo Duque, president of the Lyceum University, said text messages with correct information on SARS could help prevent panic and teach people how to deal with SARS.

Duque said if the phone companies could send out jokes, ring tones and games through text messaging, "why not a feature on SARS information?"

"The rumors (about SARS) are killing us. So we are appealing to the mobile phone companies to help disseminate the right information," Duque said.

Duque said he was peeved by erroneous reports that a patient from Binmaley town died of SARS at their family-run hospital in this city.

"(The patient) died of tuberculosis pneumonia," he said.

The body was exhumed, as requested by the patient's family, to find out if he really died of SARS. But the pathologist confirmed that the person, who came from the United States, did not die of SARS, Duque said.

He also cautioned doctors not to "recklessly" release information about patients because they could fan the rumors.

Pangasinan

The SARS scare in Pangasinan has also affected the coming bangus festival in Dagupan City, with city officials receiving queries whether it was safe to come to Dagupan.

Several events and hotel bookings in the city were cancelled because of SARS fears, the INQUIRER learned.

But Mayor Benjamin Lim assured that the city is SARS-free and no case of infection has been reported.

Lim appealed to rumormongers, including those who create panic through unverified information on SARS circulated by text messages, to stop spreading wrong information.

"It's not true. Those are just rumors calculated to destroy the festival," Lim said.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz asked the public to stay calm but cautious because "panic will only bring us worse consequences."

"We, Filipinos, are not alien to calamities and disasters and it is good to remember that even the SARS plague will certainly pass away," Cruz said.

However, he asked that the health authorities be transparent in their findings about SARS, "and be truthful in their advisories on what we should do (as) there is no reason why the truth will hurt us more than what the real situation already is."

Dr. Jesus Canto, chief of the Region I Medical Center in Dagupan, said there was no SARS patient confined in the center, contrary to rumors spreading in the city.

Only Alcala town, some 40 km from Dagupan, has a case of probable SARS, according to the Department of Health.

In the capital town of Lingayen, rumors also circulate that a resident had contacted the disease, forcing the people to use surgical masks.

In Barangay Bonuan Binloc in Dagupan, village chair Pedro Gonzales said the residents are worried about the planned establishment of isolation rooms for suspected SARS patients at the old hospital building in the village.

He said there are 100 houses across the road, which may be affected by the virus if the plan pushes through.

Baguio

In Baguio City, the local government has undertaken a massive surveillance drive around local destinations frequented by tourists to help prevent the possible spread of SARS.

Florence Reyes, city health officer, said the April 10 visit here of Adela Catalon, a probable SARS fatality, alerted the government to the fact that suspected SARS patients would visit Baguio, a favorite domestic tourist destination.

But unlike many other travel spots with tropical climates, Baguio is the only city with a temperature that is hospitable to the common cold virus, Reyes explained. SARS is actually a strain of the corona virus—a cold virus.

Catalon's visit to the city has heightened the government's resolve to establish new health protocols that would not affect the city's brisk tourism trade, she said.

Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda said the city council is studying a proposed quarantine ordinance that would give local health workers power to detain and isolate suspected SARS carriers, including tourists.

"This is purely a precautionary measure, and it does not signal to the world that Baguio has SARS. We do not have SARS. We just need an ordinance to cope with the likely problems, until Congress issues a national quarantine law," she said.

The City Epidemiological Surveillance Unit had just cleared five of Catalon's Baguio relatives whom she visited here, Reyes said.

The INQUIRER learned that the five relatives were in a Baguio house that Catalon visited on April 10. Some of them accompanied Catalon to a local hospital, where she inquired about a cancer specialist for her father, and later to a local shopping mall, where she ate lunch.

"She did not alight from the van she was riding in when she visited the hospital so the possibility of casual contact is small there, but she did enter a mall," a government source said.

But Mayor Bernardo Vergara is not taking any chances. He met with all 129 barangay captains here on Thursday for a proposed census that would help the government determine the number of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) based in the city.

Reyes said the new data would forewarn health workers about returning OFWs, and would enable them to determine their whereabouts as soon as they enter Baguio.

A local university already volunteered 1,400 student cadets to conduct a house-to-house education campaign and survey, as part of this proposed barangay anti-SARS measure.

Each Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet will carry SARS information leaflets that will teach residents about detecting SARS carriers.

Cagayan Valley

In Tuguegarao City, officials of the Cagayan Valley Medical Center and the DOH's regional epidemiology surveillance unit have located an overseas Filipino worker who sought treatment for fever but suddenly disappeared from the CVMC quarantine ward on Thursday.

The woman, an OFW from Hong Kong who arrived in the city on April 5, went to the CVMC for consultation, reports said.

Dr. Purita Danga, regional health director, said they have found the woman and have confirmed that she was not suffering from symptoms of SARS.

Danga said the woman may have left the hospital because she probably panicked when she was taken to the quarantine ward.

Danga said the woman berated the medical team and asked why she was treated that way. The woman said she went to the hospital for a medical checkup for her re-entry to Hong Kong.

Danga said the medical team apologized to the woman.

Pampanga

In Pampanga, patients in a ward of a private hospital in the City of San Fernando panicked and went out of the hospital on Friday when a Filipino balikbayan afflicted with pneumonitis was confined in the same ward, according to Dr. Ethelyn Nieto, DOH Central Luzon director.

Not even an assurance from the regular doctor of the patient was able to calm down the other patients.

Quoting the doctor's explanation, Nieto said the balikbayan, a woman from California, suffers from "mild pneumonia" every time she visits the Philippines.

Nieto said the woman refused to be taken to the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital, one of two SARS quarantine centers of the DOH in Central Luzon.

According to her, the woman wanted to be taken to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. The DOH, Nieto said, was arranging the woman's transfer to the RITM.

Northern Mindanao

In General Santos, the city government said it was forming a task force to prepare plans on how to deal with SARS.

But the SARS scare drove residents to buy surgical masks.

Drugstores were swamped with buyers of masks after rumors spread that a SARS victim was being treated at a local hospital.

Dr. Marianne Trabaho, epidemiologist at the Northern Mindanao health office, said the rumored SARS victim was only suffering from urinary tract infection.

The DOH said the patient worked as a singer in Shanghai and returned home on March 31. On April 19, the patient had a fever.

Dr. Jerie Calingasan, city health officer, urged the people not to believe in rumors.

Calingasan said health officials would not try to cover up cases of SARS if these were detected.

"We will let the whole of Cagayan de Oro know about it," Calingasan said.

General Santos City Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. said he has directed Dr. Fidel Penamante, medical director of the General Santos Integrated Hospital, to prepare guidelines for the creation of the task force.

Penamante said health authorities are capable of dealing with SARS.

In Zamboanga City, health authorities admitted that the city's nearness to Malaysia could increase the possibility of SARS entering the city. Aquiles Z. Zonio, Julie S. Alipala, Edwin O. Fernandez, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Ellen P. Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Vincent Cabreza and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Romulo Ponte and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

From telenovela to Time cover; from villainess to Earth hero

By Volt Contreras

A VILLAINESS in local telenovelas has become Earth's heroine.

Actress and environmental activist Chin-Chin Gutierrez has become the third Filipina to be featured on the cover of Time magazine for being a tireless heroine for Mother Earth. She was the lone Filipino in Time's list of "Asian Heroes" for the year.

Time honored Gutierrez for "using her fame to spread a message often ignored in the Philippines: there are natural resources aside from beauty and talent."

In the domestic scene, Gutierrez and actor Roy Alvarez have already won recognition. In a story published last year, the INQUIRER noted the environmentalists' campaign to clean up the mystical Mt. Banahaw.

Gutierrez, who said she inherited her strong concern for Nature from her botanist father, was among 29 honorees listed by Time.

The lineup is led by Asia's "SARS doctors" who remain in the thick of the battle against a mysterious killer pneumonia virus. It also includes Chinese basketball star Yao Ming, cellist Yo-yo Ma and Yoko Ono, widow of slain Beatle John Lennon.

The 29-year-old actress (Ma. Carminia Lourdes Cynthia Gutierrez in real life) was cited for her work with Mother Earth Foundation, which has been organizing environmental workshops, tree planting and cleanup projects in threatened ecological sanctuaries around the country.

"It's a great honor, of course," she told the INQUIRER yesterday. "And beyond feelings of personal accomplishment, I take (the citation) as an affirmation that caring for the natural world is important."

"And hey, I'm on the same list with Yao Ming!" she beamed.

Gutierrez is the third Filipina after former President Corazon Aquino and actress/MTV video jockey Donita Rose to be on the cover of Time.

The Communication Arts alumna from Mirriam College is best known nowadays for playing an eccentric archvillain named Helga Lamermoor in a popular TV evening soap, Habang Kapiling Ka.

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1996 Asian Youth Masters Bowling Champion

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Mindoro survivor tells of ordeal

By Clarice Colting
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WITH HANDS bound and eyes blindfolded, Virgilio Catoy II was sure he was a goner. Fortunately, he got off with a mere threat to his life.

Catoy, Francisco Saez and Melvin Jocson, who were abducted in Mindoro last April 20 together with slain leaders Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy, recounted their ordeal in a press conference held yesterday at the UP Diliman Chapel, Quezon City.

According to Catoy, they were aboard a van bound for Pinamalayan to investigate and document new cases of human rights violations in Pinamalayan and Gloria, Oriental Mindoro, when a jeep-load of men stopped them, in Barangay Sampaguita, Naujan.

The men were wearing bonnets and fatigue jackets and carrying rifles and ammunition pouches. "They asked for Eden (Marcellana) and, fearing for the safety of the other passengers, Ate Eden identified herself." One of the armed men slapped a passenger who insisted she did not know who Eden was.

Not wanting Eden to go alone, Gumanoy also identified himself as the chairperson of KASAMA-TK.

Marcellana, Gumanoy, Catoy, Saez and Jocson were ordered to get off the vehicle.

The five were bound and blindfolded and transferred to another jeepney. Both Saez and Jocson said they received blows when they failed to comply with the men's orders. Catoy said he was sure Marcellana was still with them as he could hear her voice as well as that of Gumanoy's. However, when the jeepney stopped, the men ordered Marcellana and Gumanoy to get out of the jeepney to "talk."

After the second stop, Catoy was brusquely carried off to an isolated area.

When daylight came he found out that he was in the town of Bongabong and asked for help from the nearest village. Saez and Jocson were also separately dropped off in other areas.

"One thing we noticed was that the actions of our abductors were quick and efficient. They knew what to do and obviously had planned what they were going to do," he said.

Alcantara family lease canceled

THE ENVIRONMENT department has canceled the lease of the Alcantara family on two pasture lands totaling 1,543 hectares in General Santos City and South Cotabato provinces which tribal groups claim as their ancestral lands.

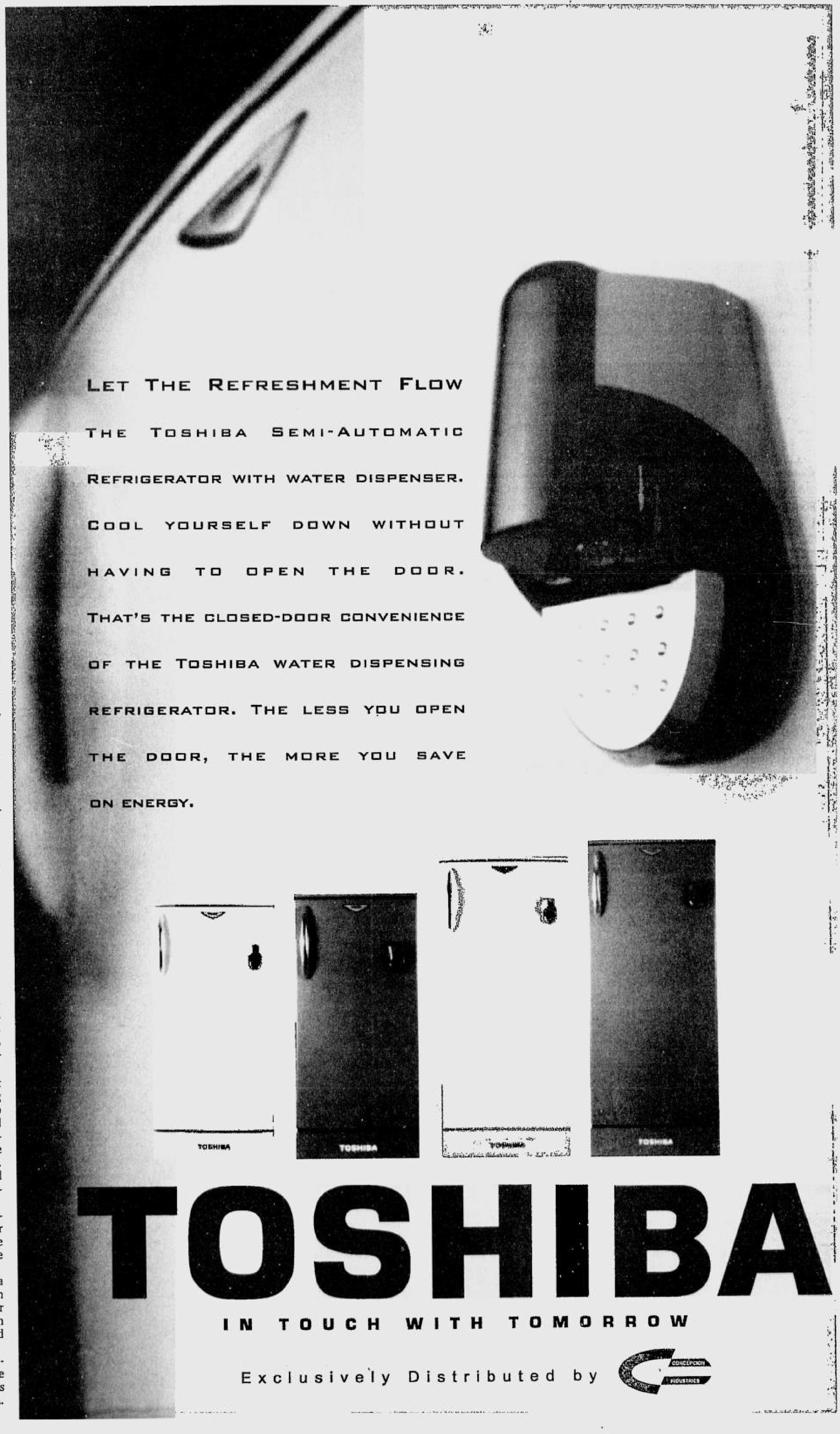
The Forest Land Grazing Lease Agreement (FGLA) No. 542 of Nicasio Alcantara covering 932 hectares and FGLA No. 552 awarded to Felicisimo Alcantara were ordered canceled by the Supreme Court which said the properties should be under the jurisdiction of the Commission on Settlement of Land Problems.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said the cancellation would put to rest all speculation that she was favoring the Alcantaras.

Gozun came under criticism when she suspended a previous cancellation order by her predecessor, Heherson Alvarez. She said she had suspended Alvarez's order to validate the identity of the land claimants.

Gozun said an agreement was reached at a meeting last Thursday with tribal leaders in the presence of General Santos Mayor Pedor Acharon and officers of the Commission on Settlement of Land Problems which ensured that the SC decision would be implemented.

"We were also able to determine the boundaries of the two land areas involved and to see to it that only legitimate indigenous claimants are the beneficiaries," said Gozun. *Christine A. Gaylican*



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Vindictive in victory

Editorial

THE REGIME of Saddam Hussein collapsed swiftly from the onslaught of US military power, but the reconstruction of Iraq and transforming it into a democracy are proving to be more difficult than invading the country.

The storm signal foreshadowing the magnitude of the reconstruction phase of conquest promptly surfaced in the form of widespread looting of key cities after the fall of Baghdad. The menacing presence of US armor and troops failed to stop the anarchy. In the vacuum left by Saddam's overthrow, a power struggle has set in among diverse Iraqi political, religious and ethnic groups over power-sharing in the post-Saddam era.

The new American pro-consul in Iraq, retired Gen. Jay Garner, has found that organizing a transitional Iraqi authority is tougher than restoring order. In Baghdad alone, there are two rival groups which have arbitrarily installed themselves as authorities in control of the capital. The US Defense Department has compounded the conflict over the authority by giving its blessings to the political exile, Ahmad Chalabi, leader of the Iraqi National Congress, whose credentials to govern are seriously challenged by other groups. Chalabi is sponsored by the hawks of Pentagon, who flew him into Iraq in military aircraft, despite his record as an embezzler.

The conquest of Iraq has opened a host of other problems. Foremost of these problems is that the US victory has filled it with hubris and arrogance. Now the United States swaggers in the heartland of the Arab world and shows its newly demonstrated military might to its erstwhile partners in the Western alliance that has been badly fractured by Washington's unilateral decision to invade Iraq.

Shortly after smashing the decrepit Iraqi army, the United States painted Syria as a haven of weapons of mass destruction and of Iraqi fugitive officials who are targets of the American manhunt. This was followed by warnings to Iran not to interfere in the post-Saddam political settlement in Iraq after Iraqi Shiites came out in force to assert their intentions to be given key roles in Iraq's new government. US tanks and armor were diverted for patrols near the Iraqi-Iranian border to show that the United States was not bluffing in its threat to use its military power to forestall outside powers' intervention in the redrawing of Iraq's political map.

There is no doubt that the swift military campaign in Iraq has given a menacing credibility to Washington's capacity to enforce its will in the Middle East whose geopolitical balance of power has been drastically changed after the fall of Saddam.

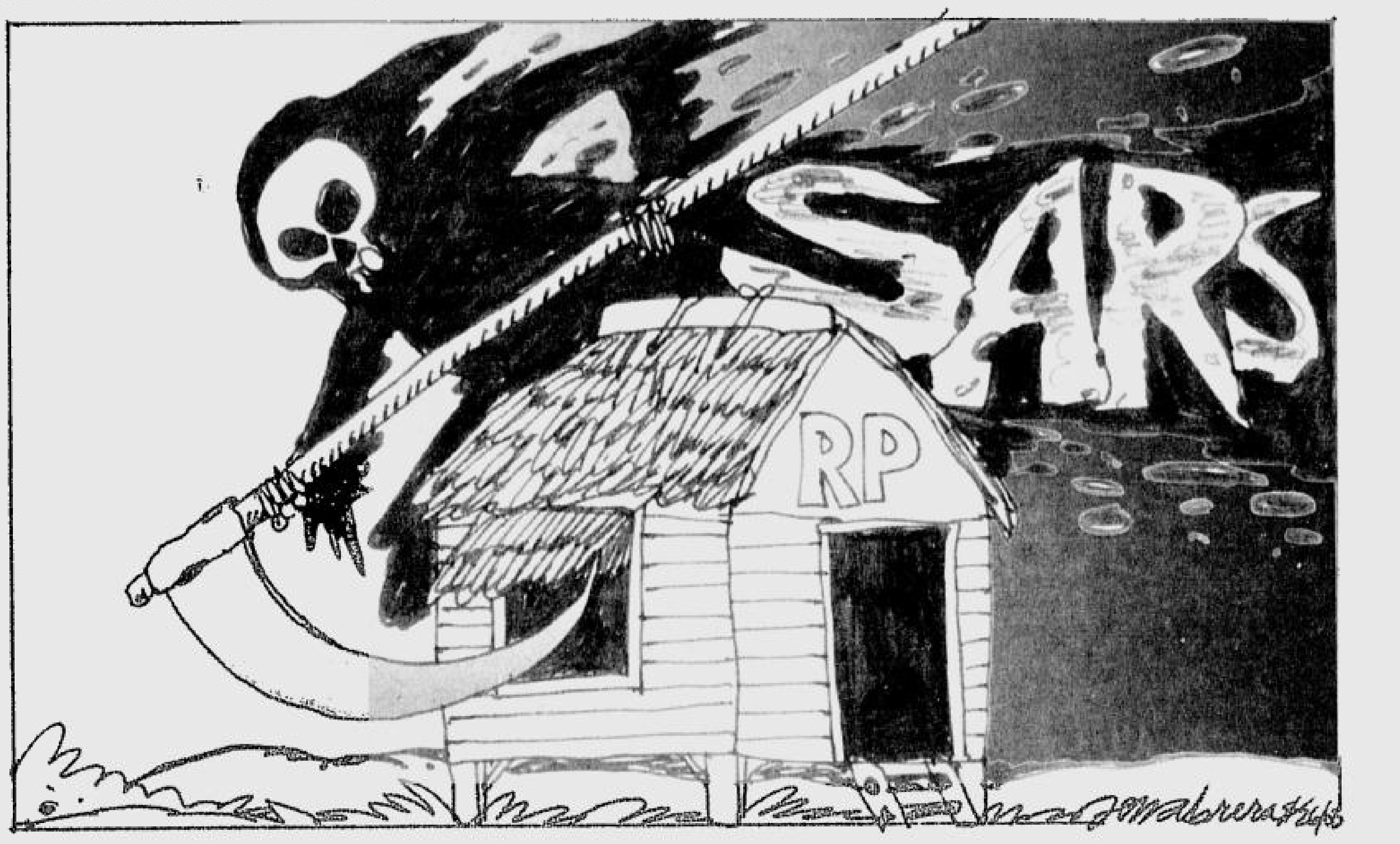
In the aftermath of victory, the United States has also turned with a vengeance on its former transatlantic allies which opposed the invasion in the United Nations Security Council. The heat of US vindictiveness is focused on France, and one is no longer sure whether the United States hates France more than Saddam's Iraq.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell last Tuesday warned that France would be punished for trying to block the US war policy in the Security Council. He said France would suffer "consequences." While not spelling out the forms of retaliation, consequences could run the gamut of excluding France from contracts in the reconstruction of Iraq, trade reprisal and marginalizing France in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Having won the war, the United States has not displayed the magnanimity of the victors. It is heaping scorn on a long-time ally whose greatest sin was disagree with American foreign policy objectives. US retaliation has sunk to a pettiness and petulance seldom seen in relations among democratic countries that disagree with one another. The United States has made it known that when President George W. Bush attends an international economic summit in Evian, France, in the spring, he will stay in a hotel across the border in Switzerland.

This has prompted a French diplomat to issue a pointed reminder to US officials. "We are not forcing anyone to spend the night in France," he said, but that Switzerland had been even more opposed to invasion than France. "They didn't even allow overflight rights for American planes," the diplomat noted.

We can expect the next phase of America's preemptive war to be an all-out economic and diplomatic campaign against disobedient European allies to impress upon them the new reality of US imperial hegemony over the West.



Diagnosing diseases

Separate Opinion

Isagani A. Cruz

AS a layman, I often wonder why, despite the many incredible advances in medical science and technology in this modern age, there are more diseases now than during my growing-up years in the 1930s. People died then mostly of appendicitis and tuberculosis, or *pagkatuyo* in the vernacular, that afflicted many of the masses in their cramped and unhealthy hovels. Even President Manuel L. Quezon became a victim of the disease despite his more sanitary surroundings and the desperate efforts to save him at an American hospital. He was only 66.

Today appendicitis is no longer the bugaboo it used to be, and TB has practically been eliminated worldwide although it is still a major killer in our country. Polio and smallpox can be prevented now by inoculation. Syphilis, gonorrhea and herpes are no longer dread and shameful diseases. The Black Death that claimed millions of lives in Europe and Asia during the 14th century is now only a ghastly memory. Even rabies which killed more people than World War I has been vanquished by Louis Pasteur.

Yet, even as these afflictions have now been controlled, new diseases have developed that were not even imagined, or at least recognized, in earlier centuries. This does not include cancer, however, which, contrary to common belief, dates back to early Egyptian times. Hippocrates, the father of medicine, gave it its ominous name but many of our common folk still call it *pangkukulam* by malignant spirits. Researchers have yet to find a cure to relieve the unbearable agony it inflicts on millions of patients desperately praying for such remedy before death overtakes them.

During the 1980s, AIDS made its fearful appearance and, like an uncontrolled outbreak, spread throughout Africa and eventually invaded Europe and the Americas. It has also infected several countries in Asia and is still growing fast, to threaten the rest of the world with its still incurable stigma. Prominent persons in history and art may have passed away from AIDS before it was discovered and identified as a venereal disease.

Right now, a new disease has struck and may contaminate the whole world unless effectively checked. The threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome has alerted all governments, including our own. SARS is fatal but apparently curable or at least preventable. Its virus is still being analyzed. The infectious disease has not only claimed hundreds of lives but has also drastically limited foreign travel, especially to places where SARS cases (and deaths) have been reported. Among these are China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, and even far-off Canada.

Medical practice was simpler before, when doctors had to diagnose by themselves from among a limited number of ailments from heart murmur to diarrhea. Those diseases were easy to identify without the need for exhaustive and expensive examinations like the MRI, the CT scan, the ECG, the ultra sound, blood and urine analyses, X-rays, etc. Now doctors subject the patient to all tests, mainly to be sure and probably also to charge higher fees. Accuracy is certainly commendable, but it may involve a lot of unnecessary precaution (for the doctor) and expense (to the patient).

The old time doctors relied mostly on their general knowledge of diseases and on their intuition to detect them. Our family doctor was my mother's brother, Dr. Pablo Anzures, who was also a lawyer and taught Legal Medicine in UP and many other law schools in Manila. He was highly respected both as a doctor and a lawyer and handled many criminal cases or served as an expert medico-legal witness in rape and mayhem trials. He also dutifully and competently served his poor patients in our old district in Sampaloc, Manila.

As children, we had so much faith in our Tio Pablo that when we were sick and our mother called him to our house, we felt cured when we heard him coming up our stairs. Don't laugh because this is true. All he would do to diagnose our sickness was feel our pulse and touch our brow, and he would know what medicine to prescribe. Once I complained to him of my itchy scalp and he wrote out a prescription that soon healed my ailment. Years later, I bought a commercial hair shampoo that looked and smelled like the medicine he had prescribed.

Some time ago, my wife Sally suddenly collapsed and we rushed her to the hospital. She underwent all kinds of test, including the uncomfortable MRI, and all of them were, thank God, negative. As a last hunch, the doctors subjected her to an eye test that she expectedly also passed. This made them conclude that she fainted probably because she had overworked herself that day. We left the hospital after paying a hefty bill.

I do not mean to disparage the medical practitioners of today for being, shall we say, better safe than sorry. There are really many ailments that can be discovered only through the intricate tests the patient has to undergo. I compliment them for their thoroughness and was glad they had found nothing wrong with my wife. But I do wonder why, for lack of a positive finding of a hidden disease, they subjected her to an eye test that, to an ignoramus like me, could not have explained her collapse.

Headlong rush to disaster

Get Real

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT'S bad enough that the Commission on Elections is strongly suspected of at best wanting to spend P1 billion on a project (the so-called Voters' Verification System) that should cost only P30 million, a wanton waste of the taxpayers' money; and at worst using the VVS as a cover for pushing forward with its notoriously ill-judged Voters' Registration and Information System or VRIS (else why would it have suspended since Jan. 15 this year the continuing registration process for voters?).

But now it would seem that the agency, and/or its commissioners, are in danger of rushing headlong down a path which will ensure the total failure of the automated counting and canvassing process, which, five years after the law mandating it was passed, is finally in the initial stages of implementation (and already behind schedule).

How so? Because, according to a white paper that has been circulating in the Internet, the Comelec seems to be favoring a proponent, Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc.—one of only two companies that submitted proposals, most probably because the agency's original request for proposals purportedly was so convoluted and so confusing that prospective bidders were discouraged—whose proposal contains deficiencies that may prove fatal to the automated election process.

Ordinarily, I wouldn't give an unsigned paper the time of day. But this one has a wealth of detail that can only come from someone with knowledge and expertise on the subject matter and was privy to the bidding process. Moreover, the consequences to the election process and the political stability of the country, if its allegations are true, are so monstrous that there should at least be an investigation of its allegations.

Some of those allegations:

The Comelec, in its Request for Proposals (RFP), requires that "the counting machines should have been used in at least one political exercise with no less than Twenty Million Voters….". Further, "In order to prove that the machines being offered are of acceptable quality and standard, the Bidders shall furnish documentary evidence that the Goods offered have been in production for five (5) years and in the number of units of similar capacity…".

According to the white paper, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos stated that "There will be NO EXPERIMENTATION" in the modernization projects. Yet, the MegaPacific machine that was submitted for testing was not what was specified in the bid (a fact, the paper points out, confirmed by Comelec Director Jun Tolentino—see what I mean by wealth of detail?). The machine that was tested would require engineering changes to comply with specifications.

In effect, the machine that MegaPacific submitted was at best a prototype—which means that it could not have met the requirement of having been used in a political exercise with no less than 20 million voters, or have been in production for five years.

Another requirement, this time in the law (RA 8436) itself, is that "The System shall contain the following features…(b) stand-alone machine which can count votes and an automated system which can consolidate the results immediately…". And, "…The machine must not be capable of being connected to external computer peripherals for the process of vote consolidation."

According to the white paper, the equipment proposed by MegaPacific is definitely not [illegible] would be a potential source of fraud, says the paper, since other input devices can be attached.

But worse is still to come. The white paper claims that the MegaPacific machine submitted for testing conked out three times during the "harsh" condition test and was only "revived" because of the presence of at least six Koreans who fixed the equipment every time it conked out. Which leads to the rather facetious question: does this mean that during the elections, every deployed machine would have to be accompanied by six Koreans?

Even more disturbing is the claim that the MegaPacific machine can only read ballots if they are fed in a certain way. Moreover, one would not know that the ballot was not read, because the machine will not reject it. Thus, it requires an operator to individually arrange all ballots to be fed properly—another invitation to fraud, as the operator only has to invert the ballots that he wants not to be read.

The paper ends by asking questions about MegaPacific's qualifications and track record ("… NOT even an IT company. It is basically a long-standing supplier of Comelec for printed forms…"), about SK, MegaPacific's primary technology proponent and supplier ("… What is the relationship of SK which is supplying the counting machines to the Korean company SK that is now in the throes of enormous debts it can hardly pay?").

Its bottom line: "Is Comelec about to do a possibly disastrous experiment on our national elections in 2004? Has it considered the risk to our very stability as a nation if that election fails miserably because of handing its automation to some group that lacks solid track record in this kind of undertaking?"

Good questions. And if President Macapagal-Arroyo is serious about her legacy of election modernization, she must waste no time in averting that headlong rush to disaster. Surely she holds some sway over Abalos, whom she [illegible]

Coalition of the seriously talking

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A MAJOR breakthrough in the campaign to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly appears to be in the offing as a powerful coalition of administration and opposition senators is said to be seriously exploring ways to iron out the kinks in this campaign. Among the senators, there is near unanimity that the Charter has to be amended, but there is a split in the manner of amending it—whether it should be via constituent assembly or a constitutional convention. What's good, however, is that the senators are now seriously discussing the issue among themselves, and with their House counterparts, displaying an openness to the idea of having a constituent assembly as never before. The next few days will be very busy for them.

* * *

The way things look, the "Con-Ass" school seems to be winning more converts, as the senators realize that an assembly is far more manageable, promises speedier results and is far less expensive than a convention. Among those in the "coalition of the seriously talking" are Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel, who head their own parties, the LDP and the PDP Laban, respectively; Minority Leader Vicente Sotto, and Senators Manny Villar, Robert Jaworski and Robert Barbers. These days present a historic occasion for constitutional reform and any legislator with an eye on history would want to be part of it.

* * *

I got to talk with Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Communities Heherson Alvarez upon his recent return from several countries in the Middle East, where he met with Filipino industrial and hospital workers, engineers and other professionals, and domestic workers. He related that the various Filipino communities gave him a shopping list of concerns to take up with President Macapagal-Arroyo, among them the need to provide the budget for overseas absentee voting so that the OFWs can vote. They also asked Alvarez to thank GMA for creating the office he now occupies, which to them is a sign of her serious concern for their welfare. He said the OFWs expressed admiration for GMA's leadership in the face of so many problems back home, specially the courage she displayed in making difficult and even unpopular decisions dictated by national interest, such as joining the coalition of the willing in the war against Iraq. The OFWs, of course, were thinking of their job security.

* * *

Alvarez said the OFWs raised what has increasingly become an inevitable question for the Cabinet members: Can the President be persuaded to reconsider her decision not to run in 2004? He promised to relay that concern to GMA, even as he opined that her first three years in office have proved to be an invaluable learning experience for her, and it would be such a pity to waste it by bowing out in 2004.

* * *

SARS has made people around the world apprehensive about foreign travel and the risks of infection inside an airplane or in airports. Reports from abroad speak about strict and elaborate measures being taken in places like Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong to contain SARS, including computerized screenings and thermometer tests. Our airport authorities have also gone to great lengths to emphasize the strictness of containment efforts at Naia I and II. It was impressive to learn that a PAL flight to Seoul was grounded and all the passengers quarantined after a Korean passenger was suspected of SARS (though he later turned out to be negative).

* * *

But not all is well at the Naia. Yesterday afternoon I caught Senate President Franklin Drilon lamenting in an interview over ANC how a friend of his flew in from Paris without being made to do anything to check if he had SARS. Drilon's complaint was corroborated by a relative of ours who flew in yesterday from Los Angeles via Hong Kong. He was made to fill up some forms at Naia, but when he asked an airport staff where to submit them, he was told to just put them anywhere. Some effort, indeed. I suppose it's part of the Pinoys' *bahala na* attitude, but let's not be surprised if SARS spreads here like a plague.

* * *

Many airlines are taking extra measures to assuage passengers' concerns and ensure their safety. Singapore Airlines, for one, has briefed its flight crews on handling possible SARS cases, which include isolating sick passengers in the plane, using in-flight tele-medical services to contact doctors on the ground and keeping an adequate supply of masks on board. All aircraft flying out of Singapore are also disinfected with a cleaning solution that meets WHO standard. (News photos also showed PAL people disinfecting their cabins too.)

Singapore's Changi Airport is also installing high-tech equipment to curb SARS. Developed by the Defense, Science and Technology Agency, a machine called "Infra-red Fever Sensing System" detects people's thermal or heat signatures and helps ground crew spot feverish passengers without the use of thermometers, in order to prevent them from boarding the aircraft.

* * *

Actually fears about a SARS-prone environment in planes may thrive more in the imagination than in reality. Contrary to popular belief, the airplane probably has one of the cleanest air around. According to Richard Stirland, director general of the Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines, many aircraft have what is called "high efficiency particulate air filters" that trap dust, bacteria and viruses. Air in the plane is changed 20 to 30 times an hour, or once every three minutes, whereas air in office buildings is changed only 1 to 3 times an hour and 5 to 7 times in a hospital operating room.

Shakespeare's running joke

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

APA Ongpin said that when his high school teacher made them read "Titus Andronicus," it was with the admonition that they would probably never see a stage version of it. It is among the least popular of Shakespeare's plays, she said, and producers down the years have shied away from staging it because of all the sex and violence, the blood and gore.

Behn Cervantes, however, preparing for the "Coffee Club" discussion of the movie version, says he did some research on "Titus Andronicus" and discovered that it was one of the most popular among Shakespeare's plays during its time. Apparently, the Elizabethan audience lapped up the tragi-comic story of the Roman general undone by his own rigid code of honor and duty and its scenes of murder, mayhem and mutilation.

Julie Taymor, who directed "Titus" for both stage and screen, told an interviewer that she believes it is one of Shakespeare's works that may be better suited for film than stage. For one, the medium allows the filmmaker to depict a character's thoughts and interior monologue through images that would otherwise have to be articulated onstage. For another, the movie audience seems more capable of withstanding scenes of bloodshed than would, say, an audience ready for a night of "culture."

The most striking thing I took away from viewing "Titus" (at Art Film in Greenbelt 1) was how accessible this Shakespearean drama is. I was astounded by how "commercial" it was, that is, going by the present-day commercial formula of moviemaking.

And if we go by Behn's research, then it would seem that the formula hasn't changed radically in hundreds of years. As one discussant at the "Coffee Club" pointed out, in their time Shakespeare's plays were the equivalent of today's telenovelas.

* * *

FOR anyone wanting to knock Shakespeare off his pedestal, "Titus" is the movie to do it with.

It tells the story of Titus Andronicus, a Roman general who comes home victorious from an extended campaign against the Goths, and sets off a bloody chain of vengeance by executing Alarbus, eldest son of the Goth Queen Tamora, as a form of sacrifice to appease the souls of the Roman dead.

Offered the post of emperor by a grateful Senate and populace, Titus declines the honor and makes way for Saturninus, son of the late emperor. But Saturninus is at best a flaky ruler. First he claims Lavinia, daughter of Titus and beloved of Bassianus, his brother, for his wife. This sets off a swift rebellion among Bassianus and Titus' sons that ends with Titus killing his youngest son Mutius. But Saturninus proves a most ungrateful and disloyal monarch. When Lavinia flees with Bassianus, Saturninus claims for his bride Tamora, the enemy queen.

"Embedded" in a position of power, Tamora then starts a campaign of revenge against Titus, conspiring with her surviving sons and Moorish lover Aaron to destroy the general and his family. In swift succession, Bassianus is murdered and the killing pinned on Titus' sons. Lavinia is raped, and her tongue and hands are cut off. And Titus, convinced that by sacrificing his hand he would win exoneration for his sons, cuts it off, only to see it sent back to him along with the heads of his sons. Titus then sends his sole surviving son Lucius to raise an invading army among the Goths, and manages to lure Tamora's sons to his hideout, where he kills them and uses their flesh in a pie which he then serves Tamora and Saturninus in a peace parley. Vengeance is met with vengeance, blood for blood, and in the end all the principals are left dead.

TAYMOR locates the events of "Titus Andronicus" in a shifting time zone, moving from a pseudo-Roman setting to Italy in the Fascist era of the 1930s to the present day.

The Roman court of Saturninus is depicted as decadent pre-war Café Society, while Tamora's sons dress and behave like youth straight out of the Punk Era. The movie opens with a devastating commentary on media violence and fast-food culture, as a boy "consumes" TV images along with ketchup and mustard, soda and hamburgers. The "consumption" of violence returns at film's end, when the dinner table at which the final killings take place is suddenly transported to an arena with an immobile and mesmerized audience.

Critics have generally panned the film, decrying its brutal depictions of violence. But however much one recoils from all that bloodshed, the movie remains totally riveting. Some images, like Lavinia ensconced atop a tree trunk on a desolate swamp, twigs attached to her wrists like hard, twisted fingers, her mouth spewing blood from her dismembered tongue, are actually beautiful.

The acting is also mesmerizing. Anthony Hopkins holds the camera's and the audience's attention whenever he's in a scene, though at moments he allows glimmers of Hannibal Lecter to come through. During the discussion, though, it was our common belief that the Hannibal the Cannibal touches were perhaps deliberate, part of the send-up of movie conventions that also mark the film.

And what can I say about Jessica Lange? She's even more of a babe here than she was in "Tootsie" when she was decades younger. She's ripened now, her body luscious and fleshy, exuding womanly allure. One understands how Tamora could drive Saturninus bonkers.

"Titus" the movie plays like a parody of our modern-day fascination for violence and human drama. But critics say "Titus" the play was Shakespeare's own parody of the popular tastes of his time and the impresarios who pandered to them. I'm sure Shakespeare is enjoying the fact that with "Titus" he's pulled off one of the longest-running jokes of all time.

Letter of Mme. Juliana Pardo de Tavera

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

The following letter of Juliana Pardo de Tavera to her son Trinidad was dated Sept. 16, 1892, just a few days before her murder.

MY dear Trinidad:

It would be a crime on my part to consent to Paz leaving with Luna, because you cannot conceive of the rage, insolence and grossness of this man. I say it precisely, grossness, because he has the audacity to invite many persons at an instance to dine without thinking that he does it with the money of his wife.

In view of the demonic character of this man, it is my duty as a mother to prevent any untoward incident from happening to my daughter who, as you may know, cannot possibly take care of her interests or of her situation because her husband treats her like a slave.

Antonio has told me that his brother has changed a lot and that if he hadn't been present, he would have killed his wife. And since this tragedy can occur any time, it is urgent to take precautions without delay.

I repeat for whatever you hold dear in this world, take this situation seriously, and do what is necessary to effect a separation because at any moment Luna might kill my daughter. This man is so vengeful and so violent that, taking advantage of my absence, he might deal her a fatal blow. This brutal man frightens me so much that I do not want to leave her alone in the house for fear that he might commit some barbarous act.

For the first time in my life I command you to do what I say because I know that my daughter is in danger. The cost of hiring a lawyer can be charged to me. I am afraid to leave the house and because of this I cannot do it myself. I believe that in my absence, Luna will commit a crime otherwise I would go and see you in order to discuss this affair personally.

Your mother,
Juliana Gorricho.

* * *

Deposition of M. Trinidad de Tavera:

To me M. Luna was very charming and we had very cordial relations. He asked for my sister's hand and I was glad. This was not true for my mother who didn't like him because he was an "indio." I made her see that this was a bias and she consented. Luna had no personal fortune.

After the wedding the couple left for Italy. Her letters all stated they were very happy. When they returned we perceived that the house furnishings were not very acceptable and for this reason my mother transferred there with the aim of helping them out by paying half the rent and sometimes Luna's share too. My mother was not the usual mother-in-law as the term is understood. She was the provider of the house. She, at the same time, was the ladies maid as well as nursemaid.

With things in this state, the doctor advised my sister that the waters of Mont-Dore would be good for her son. In various letters that she wrote me, she told me that she had met a Frenchman, M. Dussaq. In the month of September, I learned that he had paid them a visit. A few days later my sister told me of the violent scene where she was the victim and that she was decided on seeking a divorce. Happily they reconciled. A few days later, my mother returned to Berck.

Then I met Luna who told me what happened in Rue Mont-Thabor. His account affected me. I had seen my sister that afternoon and she denied everything.

The following morning Luna arrived and said that after he had threatened my sister with a revolver she confessed. He added that he was resolved to separate from his wife, bringing his son with him. (Here the witness relates the incidents relative to the duel and [illegible]

The negotiations have broken down, and Luna manifested to me that instead of separating from his wife, they would all leave for Vigo. I advised my mother who was frightened. I never believed him capable of such a deed.

On the 21st I received a very alarming letter from my mother informing me of the incident of the (make-up) pencils and she asked that I do what was possible to stop the trip to Vigo. I didn't know what to do. Nevertheless I wanted to avoid the scandal and went to see Luna to know what was happening. I had been hard on my sister but I could not accept such violence against her.

I then cabled Regidor so that he would come quickly, and did the same thing to Felix. The following morning I was drinking my coffee when a man appeared saying I was needed quickly in Rue Pergolese. I left and met the Police Commissary who refused to accompany me and I continued to Rue Pergolese.

When I got there, my mother told me that she had me called because Luna had threatened to kill his wife if an object he had lost wasn't found. I then advised my mother to lock herself up with my sister while I went out with Felix and Regidor.

We left and Luna accompanied us very cordially up the middle of the garden. I then pointed out to Regidor Luna's dissimulation.

We went into a café to talk. We were barely seated when we were advised that we had to return immediately because something was happening.

My mother and my sister were at the window crying for help. We entered the garden and saw Luna appear suddenly in the window of the living room with a revolver saying, "I will kill anyone who comes up."

A shot rang out and my brother was hit on the right side. Then three more shots were fired and the screams of my mother and sister stopped.

I immediately sent for M. Felizet and entered the house and found Luna looking calm. He told me, "This is your fault."

I thought he had only wounded my sister. I entered the room and found the body of my mother

Remembering Mara

YOUNG BLOOD

Rebecca E. Aguilar

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I NEED someone to help me understand what I am feeling right now.

It was my dream to have a child of my own. A child whom I would raise and love dearly and get to know very well. A child who would discover the world with my help.

I did not know what kind of mother I would be. I was afraid that I might not measure up to the responsibilities. But I promised myself that while I might not turn out to be a perfect mother, I would definitely try to be the best mother for my baby.

Last year, my dream came true.

It was June 2001 when I found out that I was pregnant. I was finally going to have my own baby with the man I loved so much.

I will never forget the days I spent with my dearest baby girl. But I will remember most of all the wee hours of the morning when I was alone and I would wake up feeling her moving inside me. I will never forget the little talks I had with her. I would tell her: "I love you very much, my child. When will I ever see you? When will your birthday be? I am so eager to embrace you and take care of you, my baby."

My baby brought so much joy to my life. From the very day I knew that I was conceiving, I already loved my baby more than I loved anyone else.

I gave birth 11 days after the expected date of delivery. I had a hard time giving birth. I was admitted at noontime on Saturday and I was still in labor by early morning of Sunday. I kept telling myself that I would just endure the labor pains and in a few hours I would finally be able to hold my baby.

Around 7:30 in the morning of Feb. 24, I was told that I needed to have an emergency caesarean operation. Even then I already sensed that something was wrong.

Shortly afterwards, I found myself being rushed out of the delivery room and into the operating room. The father of my child met me in the hallway. During that fleeting moment, I felt his hand holding mine. Neither one of us said a word. I wanted to cry, but what held the tears back was my hope that everything would be all right.

In the operating room, I was given spinal anesthesia, which left me still conscious of what was happening. The anesthesiologist told me she would put me to sleep after they took my baby out.

Finally, I heard him say, "It's a baby girl." Though very exhausted, I managed to smile. Finally I could hold my dearest child, I told myself.

I waited to hear her cry. I never heard her making a sound.

I asked if they had taken her out. The obstetrician said, "You can sleep now."

When I woke up, I immediately asked where was my baby. Her father who was sitting beside my bed suddenly cried and said, "Mara is dead."

I couldn't believe what I had just heard. I can never put into words the pain I felt. Inside the very same womb that gave her life and sustained her for nine months, quick as a snap of a finger, my baby, my most-awaited precious child, died.

Her father told me that he had decided to have her cremated that very same evening. I wearily gave my consent.

Although I felt very weak, I asked him if I could see her one, last time.

Everything looked black and white and hazy at that time. I only saw her for a minute or two: her full lips, big hands and feet, and the curly hair that she got from me.

It has been more than a year since I lost her and I am still grieving my loss. I am still holding on to that tender image of her when I held her as I lay in a hospital bed. I am still longing for her.

There are times when events flash back in my mind, making me cry. Sometimes I cry when I see things that remind me of her. Sometimes I cry because I feel an emptiness inside my heart, an emptiness that will never be filled by anyone—not even by her father and not even by my own future children.

When I am at home, I feel as if I still have my baby around. As if she is just sleeping in her crib, the one that her father excitedly chose for her. Sometimes as I lie awake in my bed, I reach out my hand to touch her tiny hand. Like the way I did the first and only time I saw her. I should have been a mommy now, and it is so painful to know that I am no longer one.

Her father now finds it most painful to watch children play and have fun, because he wants to see Mara playing with them but she is gone.

I know that I should not lose hope. I still have the same dream. It's just that I have yet to fully accept the loss of my beloved first born. I hope that I will have enough strength to overcome this tragedy of losing Mara and the life I planned to spend with her.

I want to tell my baby that I love her so much and that I love her more each day. In the future, her father and I will make sure that her brothers and sisters will remember their *ate* who is in heaven.

Rebecca E. Aguilar, 28, works as an office staff in Quezon City. She wrote this in the wee hours of the morning as she thought of Mara.

THEY SAID

Open to all

"It's a place of worship so it would be unthinkable to bar anyone. Also, we presume that people enter their mosque to pray. We don't ask them, whether they are strangers or not."

—Ustadz Abdullah Sindatoc, explaining why he did not approach the suspect before the mosque was bombed

Self-defense

"We want the law to rule and if the Americans don't defend us then we'll defend ourselves with our own weapons."

—Khazen Hussein, one of the Iraqi shopkeepers who started shooting looters

Saddam's fate

"He's either dead or he's running a lot, but he's not commanding anything right now."

—US Gen. Tommy Franks on Saddam Hussein

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Congress' OK needed for sale of RP properties

RECENT news reports said that the Philippine government will sell certain government-owned real estate in the United States, including the Philippine Center buildings in New York and San Francisco and the old chancery in Washington, D.C.

On the assumption that these properties are titled in the name of the Republic of the Philippines as owner, the pertinent law that would govern their proposed disposition is found in the Administrative Code of 1987 which says: "Whenever real property of the Government is authorized by law to be conveyed, the deed of conveyance shall be executed in behalf of the government by the following: (1) For property belonging to and titled in the name of the Republic of the Philippines, by the President, unless the authority therefor is expressly vested by law in another officer."

This provision of law was applied by the Supreme Court in Laurel v. Garcia in 1990, when it aborted the proposed auction by the Philippine government of the government-owned Roponggi property in Tokyo, Japan, which was not authorized by law. In that case, the Court ruled that the property, which was acquired by the Philippine government under the Reparations Agreement with Japan in 1956, was of the public domain and, therefore, outside the commerce of man. As such, it could not be alienated. But even assuming that it was no longer of the public domain, there was no law authorizing its conveyance in accordance with the cited provision of the Administrative Code of 1987.

"It is not for the President to convey valuable real property of the government on his or her own sole will," the Court said. "Any such conveyance must be authorized and approved by a law enacted by the Congress. It requires executive and legislative concurrence."

So, there being no law authorizing the conveyance of the Roponggi property, its sale was disallowed by the Supreme Court.

In the light of such a judicial proscription, it is clear that President Macapagal-Arroyo is powerless to convey or dispose of the assets located in the United States in the absence of specific legislative authority allowing their sale.

I trust that the lawyers in the Malacañang legal office are familiar with the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Laurel v. Garcia and will advise the President accordingly.

—BARTOLOME C. FERNANDEZ JR.,
5431 Curie St.,
Palanan, Makati City

Passport project clarified

THE ARTICLE on the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) passport/visa project that Victor C. Agustin wrote about in his column was not true.

I have not talked to Lucio Co to get him as investor for the project that the Philippine Passport Corp. (Philpass) is implementing. Tapping potential investors is the job of Buenaventura, Echauz & Partners (BEP) as the financial arranger for Philpass. Enrique Razon Jr. was one of those introduced by BEP to Philpass.

The Machine Readable Passport and Visa (MRP/V) Project was awarded by the DFA to the proponent after it submitted the most responsive bid for the project. In accordance with the BOT Law's Implementing Rules and Regulations, the National Economic and Development Authority approved the contract for the MRP/V Project signed in February 2001. On this basis, the DFA issued to Philpass the notice to proceed to implement the project on April 20, 2001.

To comply with the terms of the contract, Philpass posted a performance bond of P101,521,625.40, and delivered the project's Phase 1 (preparation of detailed plans and specifications) on Aug. 13, 2001. However, between the last quarter of 2001 and the first quarter of 2002, a contract renegotiation had to be made on the DFA's request. This resulted in amendments to the February 2001 contract.

Under the new contract, Philpass' performance bond was extended to June 19, 2003 to cover phases 2, 3 and 4.

Philpass is waiting for the DFA's instruction to move forward. It has already disbursed a total of P205.86 million, and has completed phase 1. It is prepared to work on phase 2 after the DFA issues a certificate of acceptance for phase 1.

Philpass' authorized capital at P1.25 billion far exceeds the requirement stated in the notice of award.

To avoid unnecessary misinformation, I would like to request Agustin to communicate directly with the top executives of Philpass, namely, Aderito Z. Yujuico and Bonifacio C. Sumbilla, for more accurate details and references.

—CEZAR T. QUIAMBAO,
director, Philippine Passport Corp., 24/F One Magnificent Mile-Citra Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Watch out for antibiotics in animal feeds

AN ARTICLE from the Internet discusses the use of antibiotics for prophylactic purposes in feeds for the poultry and swine industry. There is concern that this leads to the development of bacteria that are resistant to drugs. This may or may not be related to the avian flu that has plagued Hong Kong in the past. But it certainly raises an alarm with regard to SARS.

The article caught my interest because my youngest son who is 7 years old had a severe infection in the small intestines last year. Despite this infection, as shown by a very high white blood cells count (WBC), his body temperature was normal. Not even the latest antibiotics in the market worked. The doctors were forced to administer steroid-based treatment.

I am wondering if our local feed millers still use antibiotics in their formulations. The European millers already stopped the practice.

—RENERIO SALONGA,
3 Birch Rd., Levitown 6,
Don Bosco, Parañaque City

Defending the Filipino family

I WOULD like to commend you for your editorial cartoon last April 17, showing an unborn child about to be crucified by masked soldiers, with the tools labeled "abortion," "contraceptives" and "anti-pregnancy vaccines and injections." I am sure that I am joined by so many others in expressing gratitude to you for defending the Filipino family.

I am pleased that the INQUIRER continues to bring out the truth by exposing what really ails the Filipino family today—the corruption of family values. To what end? Is it to promote the agenda of population control through a comprehensive package of so-called reproductive health, regardless of their impact on marriage, the family, society and the life of the unborn? Indeed, poverty is caused by overpopulation—overpopulation of corrupt officials and not of the Filipino people.

Our children today, the parents of tomorrow, are constantly being bombarded with materials that promote the degradation of moral values—condoms, pornographic magazines being sold near schools, offensive advertisements and billboards, even local TV shows that blatantly expose sensuality and violence, making it extremely difficult for parents to guide their children. It is these very same children who have been "taught" to be promiscuous, who are once again being "taught" to "right" what is wrong by another wrong—abortion and the use of all methods of contraception.

May this cartoon serve as a warning for politicians supporting bills which are anti-family and anti-life and therefore anti-society (given that the family is the basic unit of society). I believe there is a need to make family life an issue in the next elections. This early, we must know the stand of candidates and reelectionists regarding family and life.

—ROSIE B. LUISTRO
president, Alliance for the Family Foundation Philippines Inc. (ALFI)
Room 305, 2 Lapu-Lapu
cor. Edsa, Magallanes, Makati City

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Not in my hometown

COMMENTARY

Cynthia Patag

"WE'RE never coming back," my eldest sister declared. "Iloilo is primitive! All those shanties!" My sister and her cardiologist husband reside in Texas, USA. To think Iloilo prides itself in having a broad middle class.

I am a true-blue Ilongga. When my family relocated to Manila in 1972, right after I graduated from high school, this *promdi* experienced a culture shock of enormous magnitude. When I came back to Iloilo early this year, I got another shock.

The first jolt came when I went to the West Visayas State University (WVSU) to enrol for a BSE diploma. The dean of education, Dr. Andora, mentioned casually that their guest speaker for this years' graduation rites was Rep. Imee Marcos.

"*Kaya naman namamatay na 'tong bayan natin, eh!*" I protested. "If there's one person who ravaged our country, it's Ferdinand Marcos. Before he became president, our nation's debt to the World Bank was $1 billion. By the time the Marcoses were driven out of this country after 21 years in power by the Edsa People Power Revolution in 1986, the amount had risen to $20 billion. Today, our nation owes its foreign creditors $54.4 billion. We have never recovered from the rapacity of the Marcos regime!"

Maybe I should have warned the dean not to get me started. But then I remembered Liliosa Hilao.

On April 4, 1973, Liling, 23 and a fourth-year journalism scholar at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and editor of Hasik, the student publication, was picked up by four burly agents of the Constabulary Anti-Narcotics Unit (Canu), led by Lt. Rodolfo Garcia, at her house in Project 2, Quezon City. Two days later, Liling was found dead in a toilet at the Canu headquarters and foaming at the mouth. She had reportedly drank muriatic acid.

An independent inquiry showed that Liling had been severely tortured, sexually abused and then killed by her captors. The military officer held principally responsible for her torture and death was Lt. Arthur Castillo. He remains in the military service.

On April 7, 1986, the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainee Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda) filed a class action suit against Marcos before the Federal District Court of Honolulu, Hawaii, for gross human rights violations. Liliosa Hilao's case was the first to be presented in court.

"But the sins of the father shouldn't be visited on their children," said the dean.

In his speech at the 17th anniversary of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo noted "the thorough and systematic plunder of the treasury and government banking and financial institutions and corporations during the Marcos regime, such as the DBP and the PNB, so much so that in 1986 and 1987 alone, at least P209 billion of taxpayers' money was required to bail them out." Romulo lamented that many years later, none of the Marcoses and their cronies are behind bars.

"As Christians, we must learn to forgive," the dean reminded me.

I had to take a deep breath. "The Marcos family is not asking for forgiveness!" I told her.

During a visit to General Santos City, Imee Marcos, who many believe is seeking a senatorial post in 2004, said, "We are willing to apologize provided we know what it is we are supposed to say sorry for."

In March 1997, the US Federal District Court ordered the Marcoses to indemnify 10,000 human rights victims of the Marcos regime to the tune of $2 billion. Lawyers representing the victims cited at least one human rights case involving Imee Marcos.

The victim's name was Archimedes Trajano, a 20-year-old student of the Mapua Institute of Technology. In 1973, during a forum held at the University of Santo Tomas, Trajano asked Imee Marcos why she was serving as chair of the Kabataang Barangay when there had been no election. Immediately after the forum, he was abducted by Imee's bodyguards. A week later, his corpse was found. It bore unmistakable signs of torture.

Trajano's parents sued Imee Marcos for murder and torture before the US Federal District Court of Hawaii. In 1992, the court found Imee Marcos guilty and ordered her to pay Trajano's parents the sum of $1 million.

"Those are your perceptions," the educator retorted.

Whoa. What's next for Imee Marcos—an honorary doctorate?" How naïve of me.

"And what did Imee donate to WVSU?" I asked.

"Nothing."

Kuno. I decided to enrol at the Central Philippine University.

* * *

"Nothing," Dr. Rosario Acerson of the Iloilo Doctor's Hospital replied when I asked her if she had anything new to say after the Supreme Court ordered the Kuratong Baleleng case reopened. A week earlier, upon the recommendation of Dr. Rene Juaneza, the IDH board had invited Sen. Ping Lacson to be the guest of honor and speaker at the launching of the IDH Kidney Foundation.

Were the doctors who had worked hard to put up the foundation aware of the character and background of their guest of honor?

"I can't tolerate this," Dr. Acerson said.

Kuno. Exactly what she couldn't tolerate, she didn't explain.

My hometown is giving me a colossal culture shock! The general apathy I've experienced alternately disgusts and saddens me. But lately, thank God, I have met some Ilonggos with a social conscience. Let's not forget June Abordo.

To this day, the Marcoses have not paid a single centavo to the human rights victims many of whom have already passed away. In the meantime, Imee Marcos, with gazillions of loot at her disposal, is everywhere in Western Visayas. *Artista ang* packaging, *'day! Nangangampanya na talaga,* with a formidable national media network to cover her activities. The buzz is that her staff solicits invitations for her to grace events even in the remotest towns. Malls are not spared.

The local government officials who invite her are equally revolting. (Are they salivating for blood money as doles?) Shame.

Then there's the legendary short memory of Filipinos. I call it cowardice.

The youth comprise 59 percent of the voters in 2004. Most of them, however, are not aware of the major role Marcos and his cronies played in the "death by decomposition" of our nation, as Nelson Navarro once put it. Every day, as many as 3,000 Filipinos, among them members of the upper middle class, leave our country, having lost all hope for our country.

If Imee Marcos wins a Senate seat in 2004, she will be the first Marcos to win in a national election since Edsa I, although she won't be the first to use the Senate as a refuge from civil and criminal suits. *Pag itong isinuka na ng bayan ibabalik pa sa poder, patay na.* Justice will never ever come to pass *sa mahal nating bayang* Pilipinas. So help us God.

Cynthia Patag has a BA in Literature from De La Salle University and is now working on a second diploma so she can teach English to public school students.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be advised that your favorite **FAMILY'S Brand Sardines**
manufactured by Universal Canning, Inc. of Zamboanga City and
endorsed by well-loved television and movie personality Kristine Hermosa
has finally obtained a **WRIT OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**
dated 11 April 2003 from the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 24,
in the case docketed as **Civil Case No. 02-102988**, against the identically
or similarly branded Family Brand Sardines distributed by
Pagoda Philippines, Inc., the label of which bears the entry
"Manufactured by Slord Development Corporation,
Navotas, Metro Manila."

By virtue of said Writ of Preliminary Injunction,
Pagoda Philippines Inc., its representatives, assignees,
agents, dealers, and persons acting on its behalf,
are enjoined from the following acts:

*1. Advertising, promoting and marketing its canned sardine
products bearing the "Family Brand Sardines"
label or any other variance thereof; and*

*2. Distributing, manufacturing and selling its canned sardine
products bearing "Family Brand Sardines" label or
any other variance thereof.*

Violation of the foregoing is cause for **contempt** and
may be punishable by **imprisonment** by the
Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 24.

This is a message of concern from the
UNIVERSAL CANNING, INC.,
makers of your trusted
FAMILY'S Brand Sardines
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Advt

North Korea tells US it has nuclear bombs, may sell or use them

NORTH Korea leader Kim Jong-il

WASHINGTON—North Korea has told the United States that it has nuclear weapons and hinted it may sell or use them depending on US actions, sources said Thursday as three-way talks in Beijing ended a day early amid recriminations.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said the talks between US, North Korean and Chinese diplomats had featured "strong views" on all sides and that the discussions, which had been scheduled to go through Friday, had concluded.

However, North Korea's delegation attending the talks entered the Beijing dialogue venue on Friday as it had done for the past two days, but there was no immediate sign of the US delegation.

Asia envoy James Kelly, the chief US delegate, left his hotel at 7:30 a.m., but his whereabouts were not known.

President George W. Bush said overnight that North Korea had reverted to "blackmail" in the first direct high-level encounter between Washington and Pyongyang since the nuclear crisis erupted in October.

Powell also said the United States would not bow to blackmail, threats or "bellicose statements" but like other US officials would not disclose what the North Koreans had said.

US sources with authoritative knowledge of the Beijing meetings said, however, that the head of the North Korean delegation Li Gun had confirmed that that the Stalinist state had nuclear weapons as Washington has long suspected.

"They said what we always knew, that they do have weapons," one source said. "That doesn't shock us, we have been saying it. Now they have said it."

Li also told Kelly that North Korea had gone ahead with reprocessing 8,000 spent fuel rods at its Yongbyon plant, which could produce enough weapons grade plutonium for several more nuclear bombs, the sources said.

They said they were unsure whether that was a bluff or whether Pyongyang had indeed gone ahead with the reprocessing of the rods.

"They did claim that they had reprocessed almost all of the fuel rods, but at this point we don't know if that's true or just plain bullshit," one source said.

The Washington Post quoted a US official as saying Li had told Kelly words to the effect of "It's up to you whether we do a physical demonstration or transfer" nuclear weapons.

Several US television networks reported that Li had threatened to "test, export or use" its nuclear weapons.

But the sources, who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity, said such descriptions were inaccurate and a possible exaggeration.

"They did not use the words 'test,' 'export' or 'detonate,'" one source said. "They talked ambiguously about what they might do and it's too early to say what they meant."

Despite the leaked details about the meetings, US officials publicly declined to confirm any of North Korea's bombshell announcements.

"We have certainly said for many years that we thought North Korea had nuclear weapons, so it would not come as any great surprise for them to say something like that," said State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher.

"They said a lot of things that require careful analysis," he said.

The South Korean government was in touch with Washington, seeking clarification of the news reports.

"We are talking with Washington. So far we have heard nothing official about the reports on nuclear weapons," said Lee Jihyun, Presidential Roh Moo-Hyun's spokesperson for the foreign press.

The meeting, which began on Wednesday did not collapse but ended before their scheduled close Friday, according to US sources. *AFP*

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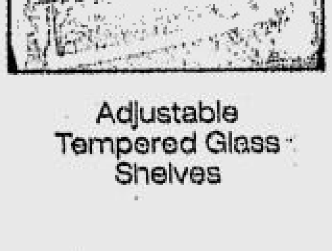

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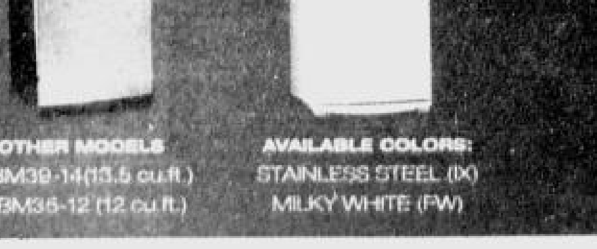

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Now it's bird flu: WHO calls for vigilance

GENEVA—The United Nations World Health Organization has called on countries hit by a new epidemic of a highly contagious bird flu, which apparently killed at least one person after crossing the species barrier, to exercise special vigilance.

An outbreak of the avian influenza, caused by a virus known as H7N7, has recently been reported in the Netherlands and Belgium, following epidemics of a similar disease in Hong Kong.

"WHO advises that persons in contact with H7N7-affected poultry flocks should be on guard for any signs and symptoms of respiratory disease. If symptoms arise, they should consult a doctor, who will then initiate laboratory testing and reporting to health officials," said a statement released on Thursday at WHO headquarters in Geneva.

A test kit for the ailment being prepared by WHO should be ready in three weeks, the statement said.

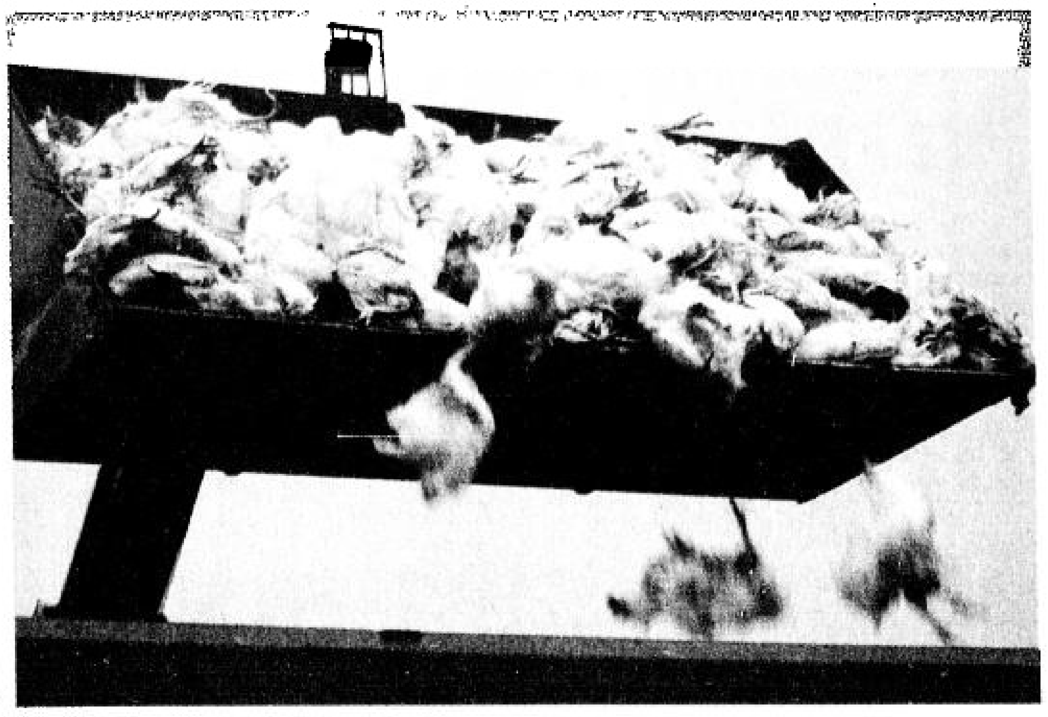
The April 17 death of a Dutch veterinarian who had been in contact with infected poultry appeared to have been an "isolated case," the WHO statement said.

A further 83 people in the Netherlands had been diagnosed with mild conjunctivitis and flu-like symptoms that had been traced to H7N7, but their cases were not serious, the UN agency said.

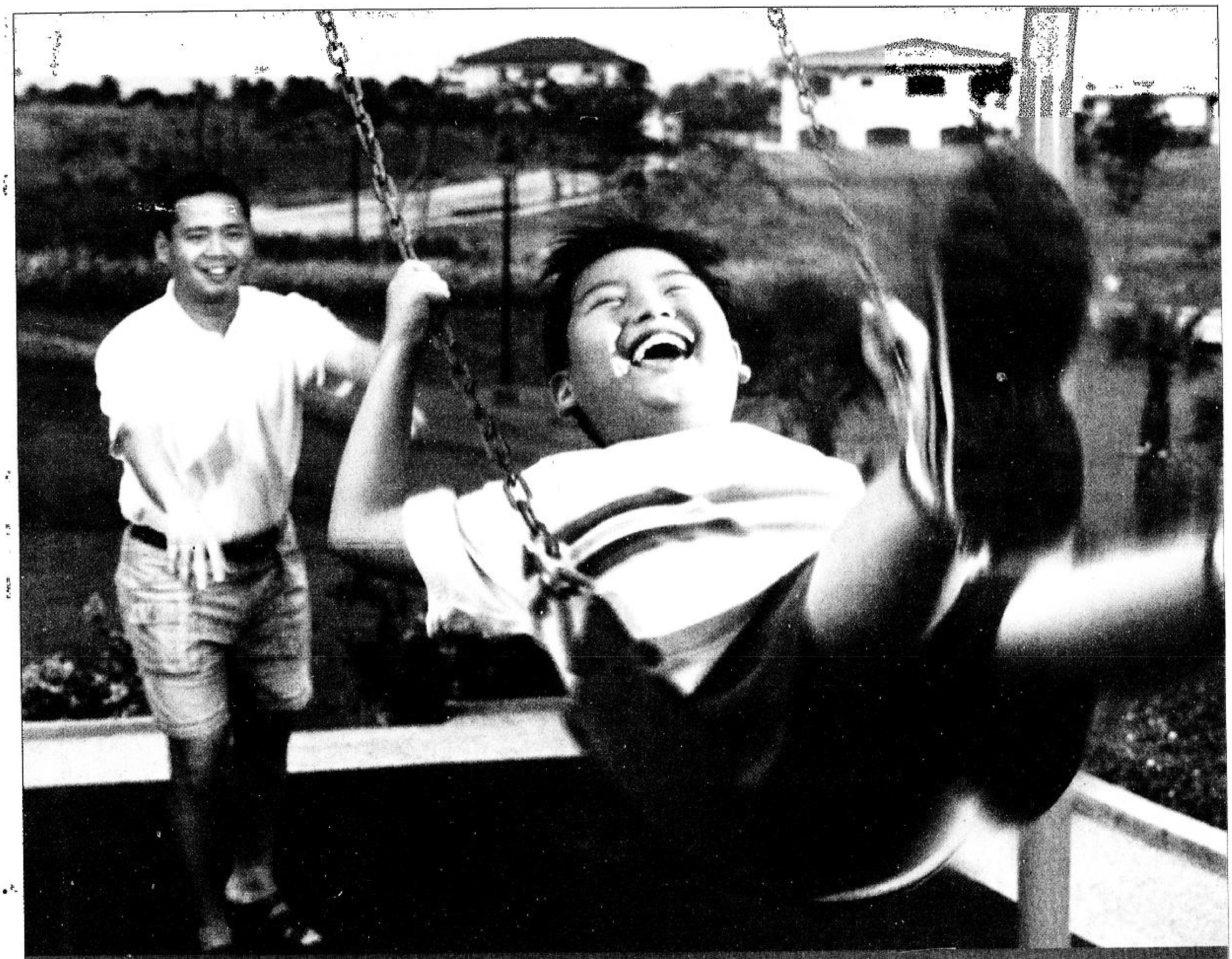
"Close investigation, including tracing of the veterinarian's contacts, has not revealed any transmission of the disease (in its severe form, as opposed to the much milder conjunctivitis) to other persons. Based on available evidence, WHO concludes that the death is an isolated case, as no efficient human-to-human transmission of the avian H7N7 influenza virus strain has been detected."

"In accordance with WHO's pandemic preparedness plan for influenza, WHO recommends that in countries where initial cases of H7N7 were detected, surveillance and diagnosis of the avian H7N7 virus should be enhanced in humans and susceptible animals (including chickens, turkeys, and pigs)," the statement said.

"The WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network is currently assembling a test kit for H7N7 that will be ready for use in three weeks. As a precautionary measure, the network is also working on the development of a vaccine for H7N7," the statement said. *AFP*



DEAD chicken that were killed with gas as a precaution in a bird flu infected area are loaded on a truck while darkness sets in Helden, the Netherlands, April 24. AP



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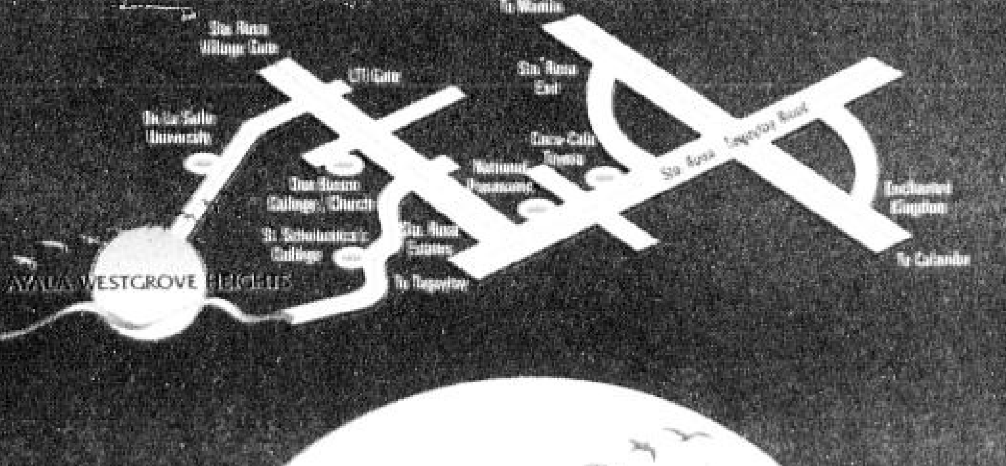

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Bush says evidence suggest Saddam dead or severely hurt

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush says "some evidence" exists that US air strikes on the first night of the Iraq war may have killed or severely wounded Saddam Hussein.

That would clear up some other mysteries, he told NBC's Tom Brokaw, including why there weren't more oil field fires, why dams weren't blown up and why the Iraqi defense of Baghdad was so uncoordinated.

In a wide-ranging interview on Thursday aboard Air Force One—his first extensive one since before the war—Bush cautioned Iran and Syria anew not to interfere in Iraq. But he said in the interview that the United States has "no military plans" against either nation.

Bush acknowledged rising demands from Iraqis that US troops leave Iraq, but he said they would remain "as long as necessary." Could that mean two years? Brokaw asked. "Could—or less. Who knows," Bush said.

He had pointed words for his critics, from the Dixie Chicks to French President Jacques Chirac.

Of Chirac, who led the opposition at the United Nations to the war against Iraq, Bush said: "I doubt he'll be coming to the ranch any time soon."

Bush has invited other world leaders to his Texas ranch, including Australian Prime Minister John Howard—a war supporter—for next weekend.

Bush said the position charted by Chirac for Europe "would weaken ... the Nato alliance."

Of the singing Texas trio, who have been outspoken critics of the US-led war, Bush said, "The Dixie Chicks are free to speak their mind."

At the same time, Bush added: "They shouldn't have their feelings hurt just because some people don't want to buy their records when they speak out. You know, freedom is a two-way street."

Bush returned Thursday afternoon from a trip to Ohio, where he promoted his tax-cut plan and visited a tank manufacturing plant. As he entered the White House, he flashed a grin and made a thumbs-up gesture when asked by reporters about news that Tariq Aziz, the former deputy prime minister of Iraq, had been captured.

He had no public appearances scheduled for Friday.

While still in Ohio, Bush raised the possibility that any Iraqi weapons of mass destruction were destroyed before or during the US-led war, suggesting for the first time that coalition troops may come up empty in their search.

But in the interview with Brokaw, he said he still believes some of these weapons will be found but that "it's going to take time to find them."

He conceded that "there's going to be a lot of skepticism until people find... a weapons of mass destruction program." *AP*

Bush a fan of Al-Sahhaf

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush had some knee-slapping laughs at the expense of former Iraqi information minister Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf, known for in-your-face defiance that at times boggled the mind, he told NBC.

"Somebody accused us of hiring him and putting him there. He was a classic," Bush laughed in an interview with NBC television Thursday, when reminded of Al-Sahhaf's remarks to the effect that Iraqi troops were repulsing US forces at the Baghdad airport and that the war was almost over.

"You know, a lot of the stuff I get, people come in and report to me—did you hear what so-and-so said, or did you see that? So I get a lot of things secondhand," Bush said.

"But in the case of the statue (of Saddam being toppled), or Sahhaf, somebody would say he's getting ready to speak, and I'd pop out of a meeting or turn and watch the TV," the US president added.

"He was great."

Al-Sahhaf vanished, when US forces entered central Baghdad, and may be dead but his words are still very much alive on the Web.

Among them: "My feelings, as usual, we will slaughter them all."

"Our initial assessment is that they will all die."

"Faltering forces of infidels cannot just enter a country of 26 million people and lay besiege to them! They are the ones who will find themselves under siege." *AFP*

Who betrayed Anne Frank still a mystery

AMSTERDAM—Dutch historians trying to find out who betrayed Jewish teenager Anne Frank—a riddle for the six decades since she was killed in the Nazi Holocaust—said on Thursday they had cleared three main suspects.

Prompted by recent books suggesting new suspects, the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD) revisited the question of who informed on Anne and seven other Jews hiding in a canalside house in German-occupied Amsterdam in 1944.

"Our investigation has not led us to the culprit," NIOD researchers wrote in a report due to be presented on Friday but posted on the institute's Web site on Thursday.

The new inquiry concentrated on three main suspects, all dead: a warehouse man at Prinsengracht 263, where the Franks were hiding; a cleaning lady; and a Dutch Nazi said to have had business dealings with Otto Frank, Anne's father.

It was the latest of several attempts to establish who betrayed the eight whose two years in the cramped secret annex were described in Anne Frank's world-famous diary.

Anne's diary, first published in 1947 by Otto Frank—the only one of the eight to return from German concentration camps—is the most widely read document to emerge from the Nazi Holocaust in which six million Jews were murdered.

Investigations in 1948 and 1963 centered on the suspicion that a warehouse man, Willem van Maaren, betrayed the Franks.

Speculation was rekindled in 1998 when writer Melissa Mueller published an Anne Frank biography suggesting the culprit was a cleaner who worked at Prinsengracht 263, Lena Hartog.

In 2002, British author Carol Ann Lee published a biography of Otto Frank that pointed the finger at Dutch Nazi Tonny Ahlers, a cash-strapped anti-Semite she said had done business with Anne's father. Ahlers died in 2000.

But NIOD said: "The conclusion of our inquiry is that we do not consider any of the three suspects to be a likely candidate for the role of betrayer."

Lee suggested Ahlers betrayed the Franks to earn himself a bounty. She also suggested Otto was blackmailed up until his death in 1980 by Ahlers, paying Ahlers in return for his silence about Frank's business with Germany during World War Two.

NIOD, whose new inquiry was launched last summer, said the Ahlers-as-betrayer theory was based chiefly on comments made by Ahlers himself—a notorious braggart and fantasist.

"We see (Ahlers) above all as a boaster who pretended to be much more important than he really was. He was somebody with whom one should be on one's guard, but above all somebody whose word was not to be taken on trust," the report said. *Reuters*

Top Israeli rabbi accused of groping men

JERUSALEM—One of Israel's top two rabbis, Yona Metzger, is accused of sexually harassing four adult males, the Maariv newspaper reported Friday.

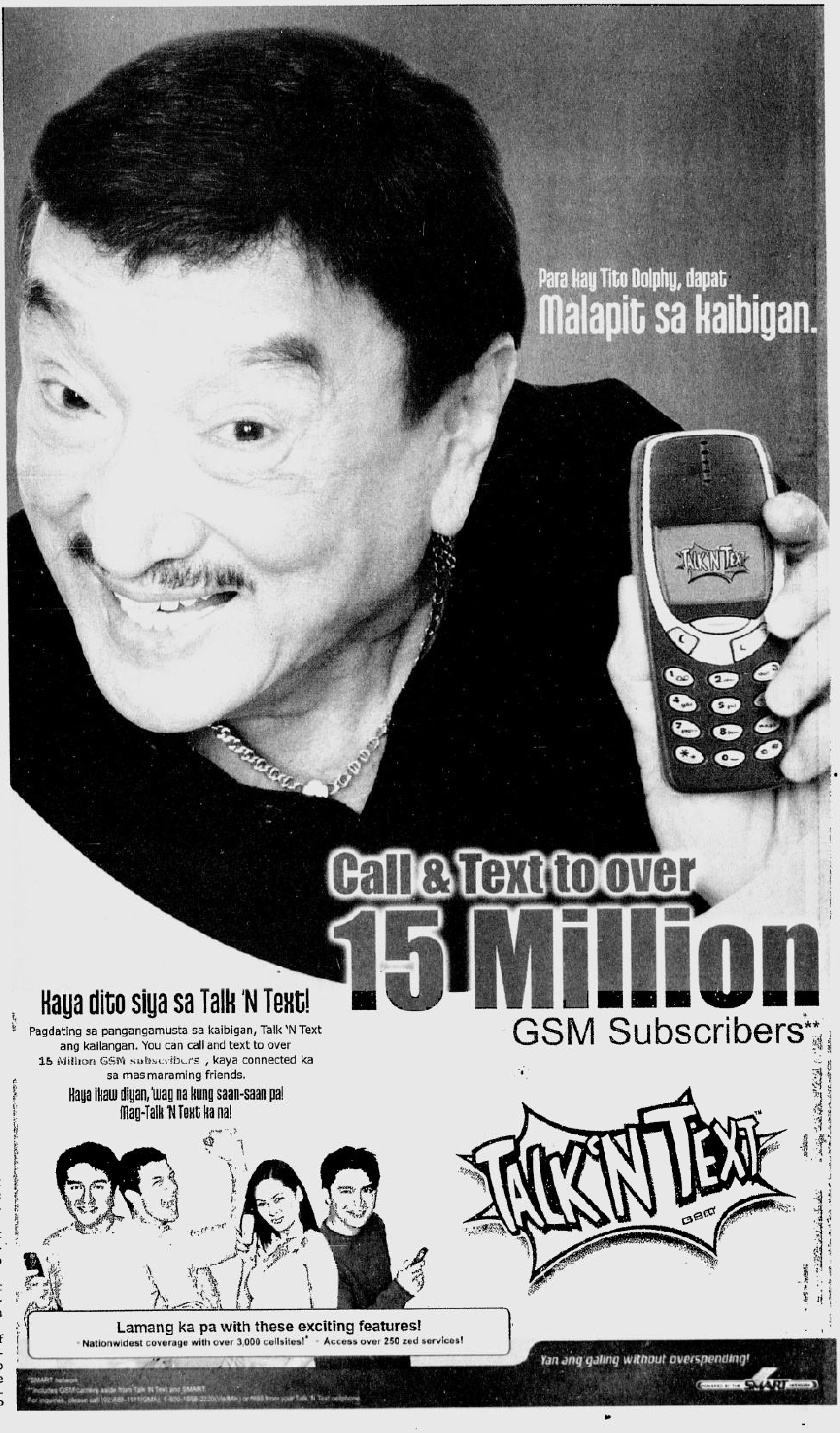
The four men accused the chief rabbi of Israel's Ashkenazi Jews, of central and eastern European origin, of repeatedly "groping" them, the tabloid said on its front page, adding that they passed a lie detector test.

The daily Haaretz for its part revealed that Metzger was barred by the chief rabbinate from running for Tel Aviv rabbi in 1998 following several complaints.

The report quoted by the newspaper did not specifically mention harassment charges but cited accusations that Metzger forged signatures to cash in on lucrative Jewish wedding contracts.

Metzger and his Sephardic counterpart Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, representing Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Jews, were both elected for 10 years on April 15.

The two appointments marked a victory of ultra-Orthodox parties over the settler-backed Zionist movement, but Israel's two chief rabbis have a mainly ceremonial role since Jewish communities traditionally follow their own rabbis. *AFP*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Workers lose jobs to war on terrorism

DAVAO CITY—A large number of employees here, those who were hired as contractuals, were terminated as the cost of the fight against terrorism soared.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte confirmed that at least 700 contractual employees were laid off as of the end of March alone.

The mayor said he might fire more employees because he wanted to spend the money for their salaries for crime-busting activities, assistance to bomb victims and funds for an additional 1,800 barangay guards and civilian volunteers, which the city government would need.

City Treasurer Engdian Kong said Duterte was spending at least P6 million per month from his peace and order fund for the needs of the Task Force Davao alone.

At least 500 soldiers were deployed under the task force to reinforce the capability of the police against terror attacks following the series of bomb explosions here that killed at least 48 people.

The task force was formed after President Macapagal-Arroyo placed the city under a state of lawless violence.

Kong said the money was being spent for gasoline and administrative operations including telephone, power and water needs and rental for the building that serves as the headquarters of the task force.

The money spent for the task force was expected to increase, as the number of soldiers would also double this month.

Col. Rodolfo Obaniana, commander of the 701st Infantry Brigade, earlier said that some 1,200 soldiers were to be deployed to the city over two months.

This year, Duterte has, at his discretion, a total of P141 million as peace and order budget. Recently, he urged the city council to give him an additional appropriation of P83.4 million.

Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, task force spokesperson, told reporters here on Thursday that the Armed Forces of the Philippines has also allocated P30,000 for each company of soldiers as logistics fund particularly for fuel expenses, vehicle tires and maintenance expenses.

Aside from this, each soldier receives P60 per day as meal allowance.

While the city has no limitation on how much it will allocate for peace and order, City Budget Officer Pacita Eugenio assured that the fund was being spent properly.

The Task Force Davao has identified 25 high-risk areas that could be possible targets of more terrorist attacks.

But Task Force Davao spokesperson Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico refused to identify the areas, only hinting that these are crowded and where vital installations are located.

He said more government troops have been deployed to these areas.

He also called on the public to be patient with the presence of police and military forces.

Adriatico said everybody should submit themselves to inspection.

But he said checkpoints have not intercepted bomb or bomb-making materials, only stolen goods.

"At least robbers and other criminals will also be monitored through checkpoints and surveillance operations," he said. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Special polls

ILAGAN, Isabela—The Commission on Elections has approved the holding of special elections in the fourth congressional district of Isabela on May 12 to fill in the position left by the late Rep. Antonio Abaya. Reports here said former Board Member Giorgidi Aggabao and Dr. Asuncion Abaya, widow of Abaya and former chief of the Southern Isabela General Hospital, would vie for the position. Santiago City Mayor Jose Miranda, who was earlier reported to be interested in running for fourth district representative, has backed out of the race. The Isabela provincial government has allotted P6.4 million for the elections. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bangus fest today

DAGUPAN CITY—The second eight-day Bangus Festival opens here today with local and foreign functionaries gracing the occasion which was expected to draw some 200,000 visitors from all over the country and abroad. A precedent-setting Bangus Congress will highlight the affair, with President Macapagal-Arroyo delivering the keynote address. The city will also repeat its bid to break the world record for the longest barbecue grill now held by Peru at 613 meters, according to a news release.

Talent test

BAGUIO CITY—The University of the Philippines Baguio will hold a talent determination test for interested applicants to its Certificate in Visual Arts program for schoolyear 2003-2004. The test will be held on April 28 and May 5 and 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at the UP Baguio visual arts building. For details, call (074) 444-8393 or send an e-mail at upbpinta@upb.edu.ph. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Boy's body found

BACOLOD CITY—The body of a 15-year-old boy was recovered on Monday 1.5 km away from the Soleo Beach Resort in San Enrique, Negros Occidental where he and his 4-year-old relative drowned during an Easter excursion on Sunday. Robbie John Guzman of Baliwagan, San Enrique was declared missing Sunday while Mary Cris Erael, 4, was declared dead on arrival at the Valladolid District Hospital. Guzman and Erael, along with five other passengers, were on board a pump boat being steered by Erael's father, Vicente, off the Soleo Beach Resort in San Enrique when it capsized at about 2:30 p.m. Vicente said the motorboat overturned when his passengers panicked after the sea craft tilted to its side. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Boy hurt in gunfire

CEBU CITY—An eight-year-old boy was injured when the gun he was playing with accidentally went off. The boy, Noel Densing, who played with the gun inside their house in Sitio Sandayong, Barangay Liki, Sogod, Cebu, was hit in the knee. Densing was brought to a Cebu City hospital for treatment. The Sogod police believed that the boy's stepfather, Wilfredo Comendador, owned the gun, of an undetermined caliber. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

2 die in smashup

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Two people were killed while four others were seriously injured when the vehicle they were in smashed into an acacia tree along Quezon Boulevard here at around 7 p.m. Friday. Reports said the driver of the van was trying to avoid collision with a passenger bus. The fatalities were identified as Charlie Sanchez of this city and Reynaldo Canedo of Makilala, North Cotabato. Injured were Jerome Ochique and Amancie Raquiza, both residents of this city. The identities of the other victims were still being established. Police said the victims, aboard an Isuzu Highlander van with plate LTR 671, came from Davao City and were en route to Kabacan, North Cotabato when the mishap occurred. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Girl has AIDS

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Health authorities here reported that among the persons recorded to have the dreaded human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), is a 10-year-old girl. The state-run General Santos Integrated Hospital (GSIH) has so far recorded seven HIV cases here. Dr. Mely Lastimoso, chief of the social hygiene center of the General Santos Integrated Hospital, told reporters that four of the seven persons with HIV were monitored through surveillance while the three others were patients. Lastimosa further revealed that two of the three patients have already died while the other one could no longer be tracked down. The Department of Health's HIV and AIDS surveillance activities noted that in Davao City, six of 10 persons earlier monitored to have been afflicted with the disease have died, while four of the seven persons with HIV/AIDS in General Santos City have also died. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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BESIEGED
Life changed for the town of Alcala in Pangasinan following reports that the disease SARS has set foot on the area. Townsfolk go about their normal lives, but are besieged by the SARS scare that some children have resorted to wearing masks.

GMA says ₱1B ready for war on SARS

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday said the government has set aside P1 billion for measures to prevent the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the country.

Ms Macapagal said aside from ensuring funds would be immediately available for SARS patients, the government was also taking the necessary steps to upgrade hospital facilities in the country to make these cope with the technological demands of SARS.

Speaking before graduating students of the University of Mindanao here, the President said her government would build facilities for SARS cases in Olongapo, Cebu and Davao.

But she said all the government's efforts would be futile unless people cooperated.

Ms Macapagal issued an appeal to the public to strictly abide by quarantine procedures set forth by the Department of Health.

SARS has been spreading like wildfire in some parts of Asia and the Americas, particularly in Canada.

Ms Macapagal said with the trend, it was not remote that the virus could soon spread in the country.

Health authorities have been tracking people in Alcala, Pangasinan, who had come into contact with nursing aide Adela Catalon.

Catalon, who came from Canada via Japan, stayed in Barangay Vacante to help supervise the treatment of her father who was suffering from colon cancer.

Health authorities said they suspected that Catalon's death was a SARS case. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Picnic turns to tragedy as 4 drown off Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—What started as a picnic ended in tragedy for members of a clan who were having a reunion in the island-barangay of Malapascua, Daanbantayan town, Cebu.

Four persons, three of them children, drowned on Thursday night after the motorboat they were riding in capsized off Chocolate Islet, about six kilometers off Barangay Tapilon, Daanbantayan town, about 130 km north of this city.

The victims were sailing back to the town proper after attending a reunion in Malapascua, which is known for its white-sand beach.

The victims were identified as Catherine Rosell, 21, a junior college student; Shauien Canton, 9; Esteban Montejo, 3 and Debie Acero, 3, all of Daanbantayan.

Still missing was Raingel Areglo, 5, also of Daanbantayan. Tapilon Barangay captain Corsino Rosas immediately conducted a search and rescue operation.

Tilano Dublin, liaison officer of Daanbantayan Mayor Maria Luisa Loot, said the victims belonged to the Areglo clan, which held a reunion on April 23.

The following day, the clan members agreed to hold a picnic in Malapascua, which was 45 minutes away by boat from the mainland.

16-year-old nursing student sues doc for rape

ILOILO CITY—A doctor, who is a teacher in a school in Capiz, has been accused of raping a 16-year-old nursing student last April 1.

The victim filed a complaint of rape against Alvin Bernabe on April 23 before the prosecutor's office in Roxas City, Capiz.

The suspect is a resident surgeon at Roxas Memorial General Hospital and a part-time instructor of a school in Roxas.

The INQUIRER called Bernabe in his cellular phone yesterday but it was either turned off or outside the coverage area.

In her affidavit, the student said Bernabe allegedly raped her on the evening of April 1 when she went to see him to discuss about her failing grades in Anatomy and Physiology.

He allegedly poked a knife at her and brought her to a lodging house where he raped her.

"You choose, you give me your body or I'll kill you," she said, quoting the doctor.

The victim said that after sexually abusing her, the doctor gave her a test paper and told her to work on it.

"He dictated to me the answer, and (in) between sobs, I followed his instructions. I was able to finish answering the test paper for more than an hour," she said in her affidavit.

Before sending her home the following day, the doctor warned the student not to tell anyone or he would kill her. *Ma. Diosa Labiste, with a report from Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

SARS scare keeps yacht race at bay

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAUANG, La Union—This beach town, which is largely dependent on tourists during summer, has paid dearly to reduce the risk of exposing its residents to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus.

Before the Holy Week, the peak of the tourist season here, local officials led by acting Gov. Augusto Aureo Nisce, moved to cancel the biennial Hong Kong-San Fernando Regatta because of the "serious concern of (the) people (over) the possible spread of SARS in La Union."

The regatta is touted as one of the world's great offshore races.

The strongly worded letter addressed to race Chair Vic Locke of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club was endorsed by the departments of health and tourism; the bureaus of quarantine, customs, and immigration; and the Philippine National Police, Navy and Coast Guard.

Bauang Mayor Eulogio Clarence Martin de Guzman III, San Fernando City acting Mayor Bernardo Valero and resort owner Carol Rossiter also endorsed the cancellation.

It was the first cancellation in the regatta's 27-year history. The race begins at Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor, crosses the South China Sea, rounds San Fernando's Poro Point, and ends in the calm beaches of Paringao in Bauang. The route covers about 768 km.

Drought destroys ₱8.3M in crops in GenSan City

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Drought has destroyed some P8.3-million worth of agricultural crops here, according to the City Agriculturist Office (CAO).

City agriculturist Abelardo Llagas said the prolonged dry season has damaged 1,224.25 hectares of land in eight barangays in the city.

The CAO based its estimate on reports from its technicians from November 2002 to January 2003.

Llagas, however, said the figure could increase when new reports come in.

Severely affected were the Barangays of Katangawan, Mabuhay, Sinawal, San Jose, Olympog, Batomelong, Tinagacan and Bawing.

Llagas said farmers in these areas are now dependent on rootcrops.

Some, he added, left their barangays to earn a living elsewhere.

Since the beginning of the dry season last year, CAO and the Department of Agriculture had already conducted a total of 48 sorties in 23 days of cloud seeding.

Llagas, however, said cloud seeding could not support the water requirement of cornfields in upland areas.

"These are not sufficient because corn has a three-month maturity. The cloud seeding is also not a guarantee because of the strong winds," he said. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Relatives of dead landowner sue gov for bouncing checks

A FAMILY from Misamis Oriental yesterday sought President Macapagal-Arroyo's help in their quest for justice against the province's governor whom the family sued for estafa.

The family of Loreto Aquino, who died on April 1 after a failed bid to recover a piece of property that she lost to Gov. Antonio Calingin, sued the governor for estafa.

In February 2001, the governor offered to buy the lot for P20 million. The governor convinced the late Aquino to issue a deed of absolute sale to facilitate a P28 million loan from the Land Bank of the Phils.

The governor paid the Aquino family P100,000 in earnest money and issued four checks which all bounced.

The family of the late landowner sued Calingin for these unfunded checks

Bohol media fall 'victim' to SARS

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The local media have become the first "casualty" of the dreaded Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) when the first reported case in the province turned out to be a case of a bum stir (*kuryente*).

The first hint of the so-called SARS case was mentioned in the Bohol Chronicle. In his column "Obiter Dictum," lawyer Danilo Bantugan said he got wind of a Boholana domestic helper from Hong Kong who came home just before Holy Week.

"Reports said she passed the quarantine of the Department of Health at the (Mactan) Cebu International Airport upon her arrival aboard a direct flight from Hong Kong," Bantugan wrote.

Bantugan, also a councilor of Tagbilaran City, did not identify the hometown of the Boholana "lest we cause panic because that is not what we intend to do."

He only hinted that the supposed victim's hometown is "among the neighboring towns of Tagbilaran."

The story was then picked up by radio station dyRD, a sister company of the Chronicle.

In the morning edition of the popular public service program, "Inyong Alagad" host Fred Araneta omitted the name of the hometown of the supposed Boholana reported to be sick of SARS.

Unfortunately, when he interviewed a personnel of a health agency, the source uttered the words "An" before the technician could switch the interview off the air.

The town of Antequera, only 19 kilometers from Tagbilaran, became the logical conclusion of the riddle.

Another town, which starts with the letters, "An" is Anda but it is more than 100 kilometers from the city.

On Thursday, Atong Balita Sano, a local paper in the vernacular, bannered the story, this time specifically referring to Antequera as the hometown of the alleged victim.

Antequera officials swiftly denied the report.

Antequera Mayor Samuel Rebosura, who ordered his people to check on the report, said the alleged death of a Hong Kong-based domestic helper was not true.

"Negative," Rebosura declared in a radio interview.

The mayor noted that there has been no report of any recent death of a domestic helper from Hong Kong.

He added that there was even no report that any of the reported overseas contract workers from the former British protectorate came home recently.

Former Antiquera mayor Isabelito Tongco was more direct.

"I urge the media to be more responsible. This is not a joking matter," Tongco angrily retorted as he said it placed Antequera in a bad light.

Dr. Francisco Razalo, Bohol provincial health officer, said the report was a false alarm.

Panay folk complain of 2-3 hour outages

RESIDENTS of Panay Island have been complaining of two to three-hour power outages that have wreaked havoc on the island's economy.

The demand for electricity is highest in the evening, reaching 175 megawatts.

The island is connected to the Cebu-Negros-Panay Grid which has a capacity of only 74 megawatts. During peak hours, there is a shortfall of at least 16 megawatts, which translates into two to three hour outages.

Those suffering from the outages are all customers of the National Power Corp.

Panay Electric Corp., the other supplier of electricity on the island, has received no complaints in some parts of Panay, including Iloilo City.

Power is generated by four plants all connected to the Panay Grid—Dingle diesel plant, 36 megawatts; PPC diesel plant, 74 MW; power barge 103, 32 MW and power barge 104, 32 MW.

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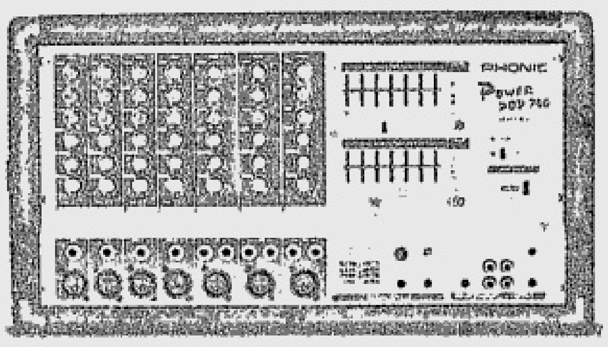

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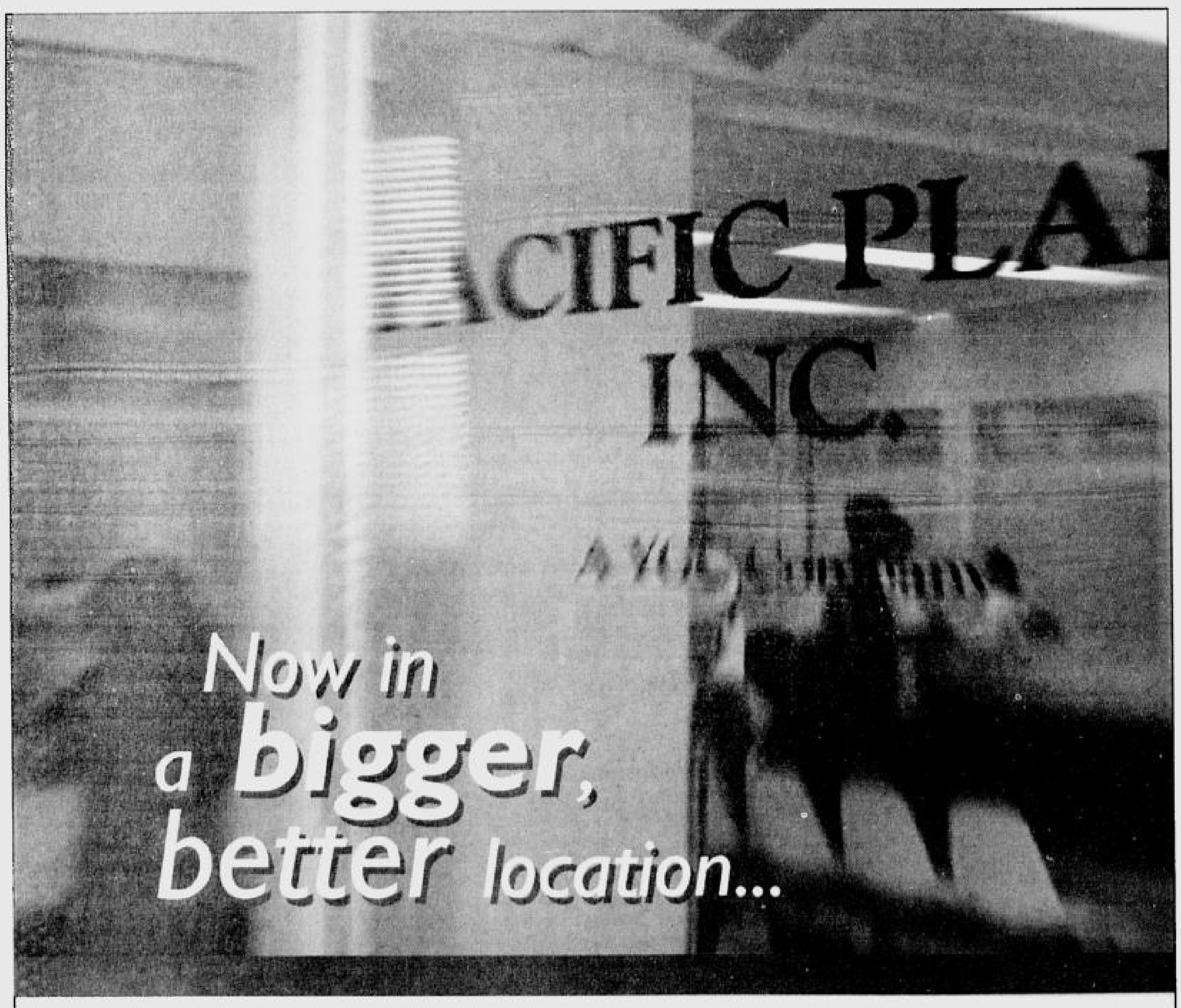

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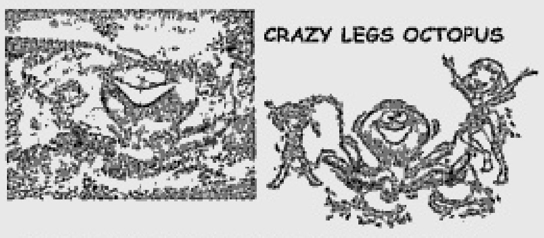
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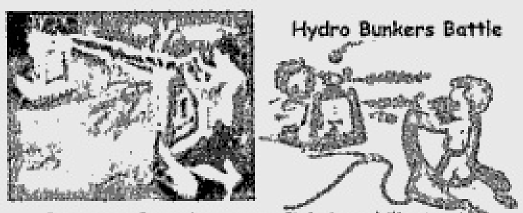
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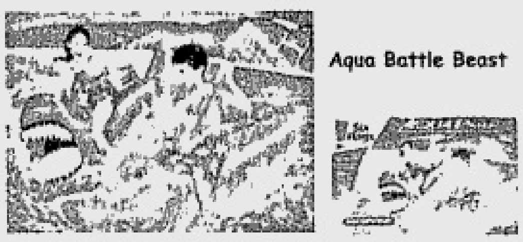
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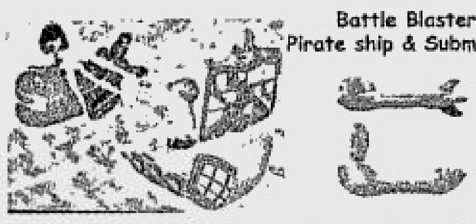
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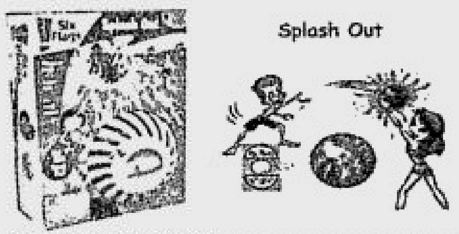
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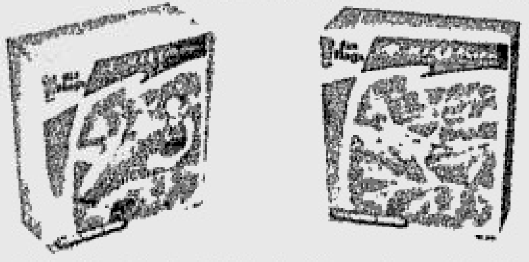
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Nature Park brings back Cebu's vanished past

THE 8-HA Nature Park in the University of San Carlos campus in Barangay Talamban, Cebu City will try to bring back animals and plants long wiped out by reckless plunder. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Juan L. Mercado
Cebu City

CAN BREEDING stations in the Visayas and the United States West Coast help a new nature park, in ecologically-ravaged Cebu, bring back animals and plants long wiped out by reckless plunder?

The modest 8-ha Nature Park that the University of San Carlos (USC) inaugurated this month in its campus in Barangay Talamban here will try.

Hunters have long driven the Visayan spotted deer from Cebu, Masbate and Guimaras. The Visayan warty pig went the same way.

But some deer survivors are maintained in breeding centers in Dumaguete City and Bacolod City. And the San Diego Zoo in California has warty pigs.

Exchanges are now being arranged to "bring back some deer and pigs, from a long vanished past" to Talamban, so Cebuanos can see their past.

Fr. Roderick Salazar SVD, USC president, cut the ritual ribbon for the park in early April. But that was a formality, really. A cool young forest already carpets once-bare hills behind the university.

Proud to be local

By choice, most of the trees, in the park, are "natives." They include molave, tindalo and palo de hierro, selected from the over 1,478 species the Philippines has.

The park's stress on indigenous trees contrasts with the "imported-is-*sikat* (popular)" syndrome. Unlike mixed and diverse Philippine forests, many reforestation projects are monoculture swaths of foreign exotics, like gemelina.

Planted over the years by the university without fanfare, the park provides a new "lung" for a choking metropolis. People can stroll there now, breathe free, even bird watch.

Significantly, the trees will include "endemic" species.

Among these are Cebu cinnamon and Binglon tree, which grow in Barangays Sudlon and Pungol. Both are on the brink of extinction

"The forest . . . is of unlimited benevolence," the Buddha once said. It "makes no demands for its sustenance, extends its fruits to all beings, offering shade even to the axe man who destroys it."

Cebu, however, is a province of confirmed axe men. Unchecked logging and burning slashed forest cover down to less than three percent, far below the 30 percent safety benchmark.

Only a pitiful four square kilometers of its original rain forests remain in Barangay Tabunan. Thus, seven of every 10 ha here are seriously eroded.

San Carlos Park "is a welcome private initiative," a Cebu Daily News editorial noted. "(It) emerges in a city where government is fixated on lump sum doles and barangay motorcycles. City Hall here never cobbled a policy on green belts."

More than just a park

Nature parks offer recreation facilities and educational tours. The Jurong Bird Sanctuary in Singapore is an example. Talamban will do that too.

But it promises more, said Franz Seidenschwarz of USC's Botany Research Group. The park "will provide a survival habitat for endangered plants and animals of Cebu." That objective sets it apart from others.

Population here doubles in 31 years. At that rate, Cebuano commerce, traffic and farms will blot them out forever sooner, rather than later.

Thus, Talamban Park seeks to offer an alternative sanctuary "for these species to ensure they survive after their habitats in the wild are gone."

"Thailand, Java and the central islands of the Philippines . . . have lost about two thirds of their wildlife habitats," warned the United Nations' State of Environment in Asia and the Pacific.

Seidenschwarz noted that there are 32 animals and five plants "endemic to the island of Cebu."

That included rare butterflies, like the Buhisan Sword Tail. Discovered and described by the late Cebuano lepidopterist Julian Jumalon, this butterfly is found near Buhisan Dam. The "Kawasan tree nymph" flutters around waterfalls in southern Cebu.

The Cebu Risiocnemis dragonfly was discovered by USC scientists only in the late 1990s in fragments of the Tabunan forests with running streams.

Rediscovery

In the mid-1990s, Seidenschwarz with two Filipina scientists—Marietta Sarong and Tessie Cantones—rediscovered "extinct" birds within the threatened 7,232-ha Mananga watershed here.

The find included the Cebu flowerpecker (dicaeum quadricolor): the dark throated oriole and the Cebu greybird. Until the rediscovery, these birds were already listed as extinct in science journals.

"The first priority of San Carlos scientists is to plant food plants—some of them rare—to hold birds, bats and butterflies in Talamban," Seidenschwarz explained.

The Cebu derris, for example, was first identified in 1912. The few specimens available then were destroyed during World War II. They were never seen again, until USC scientists came across two new species growing in Jaclupan limestone hills.

Park scientists will not only systematically replant rare species. They will ensure follow-up care that is the only guarantee of survival.

The park reflects a sense of accountability to future generations of Cebuanos. There is no option but to rebuild on ecological ruins left by today's myopic profligates who periodically claim "leadership" in City Hall or Provincial Capitol here.

Talamban is a calibrated response to a people who have ravaged their once-abundant environment.

Borrowed resources

"Cebuanos forgot these God-given natural resource systems were to be cared for," the Sun Star Daily here noted. "We only borrowed them from our children."

When species disappear, so do valuable genetic material. In the future, these can prove building blocks for medicine, new crops, food, etc. The rosy periwinkle of Madagascar, for example, provides anti-cancer drugs. And varieties of japonica rice blended into new "miracle rice" strains.

Future generations have a right to genetic diversity that is, at least, equal to what the present generation still possesses. Ubaidullah Khan of FAO warned at an Asian Institute of Technology address.

"Loss of species is irreversible and closes off little-understood options for our grandchildren," the UN official stressed. "No one has yet invented a mechanism for recall from obliteration. Extinction is forever."

The Talamban Park calls for leadership that will see beyond Cebu's ecological ruins to what can still be retrieved and rebuilt.

Binirayan fest: Journey to Antiqueños' past

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
San Jose, Antique

ANTIQUEÑOS once again journey to their past in this year's celebration of the Binirayan festival. From today up to Tuesday, the people of this province will showcase their art, culture, indigenous products and proud heritage.

The festival features exhibits and presentations that hopefully will help unite the people who have suffered years of poverty and violence-prone political strife.

Binirayan (where they landed) is Antique's version of festivals held on Panay Island, depicting the arrival and settlement of Malayan *datus* (chieftains) on the island during the 13th century as claimed by the Maragtas document.

It is said that 10 datus led by Datu Puti and Datu Sumakwel fled from Borneo to escape death from the hands of the cruel ruler Datu Makatunaw. The datus, their family and followers traveled on barangays (swift-sailing boats) and landed on Panay Island.

They first landed in the Siwaragan River in San Joaquin town, Iloilo, according to the Maragtas account. But after finding the rocky area unsuitable for settlement and agriculture, the party sailed further northwest until they reached the shores of Malandog in Hamtic town, Antique.

In his book Popular Festivals in Western Visayas, historian Henry Funtecha said some scholars questioned the authenticity of the accounts, but this did not prevent Antiqueños from commemorating the event in search of their identity and origin.

One of the province's most admired sons started the festival. Slain former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier led the first holding of the festival on Dec. 27, 1974 in the hope of making his provincemates more conscious of their past and thereby forging their ties as a people.

Changes

At first, the festival was similar to many town fiestas featuring episodes and heroes in Philippine history patterned after Independence Day celebrations.

Through the years, the festival has evolved into a truly indigenous event.

In 1978, indigenous music and dances were used. Among the highlights of the festival were the fluvial parade and the reenactment of the landing played by performers portraying the Malay settlers and the Atis.

The festival culminated in a merry-making in the streets of San Jose during the day. In the evening, a cultural presentation was held featuring dances, songs and "practices of Antiqueños such as *harana* (serenading), *pamalaye* (betrothal), *sinulog* (courtship) and offerings to the newly weds that thrive(d) before the coming of Europeans."

Throughout the years, the festival survived several changes in the venue and date of the commemoration. From 1978 to 1983, the festival was held in Malandog, believed to be the actual landing site of the datus, according to Funtecha.

In 1981, the date of the festival was moved to May 1. Three years after, the venue was transferred to the capital town of San Jose. The festival was moved back to Dec. 27 in recent commemorations. This year, it was again moved to April 26.

Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez said there are plans to move the festival next year to March 10, the foundation day of the province.

Celebration

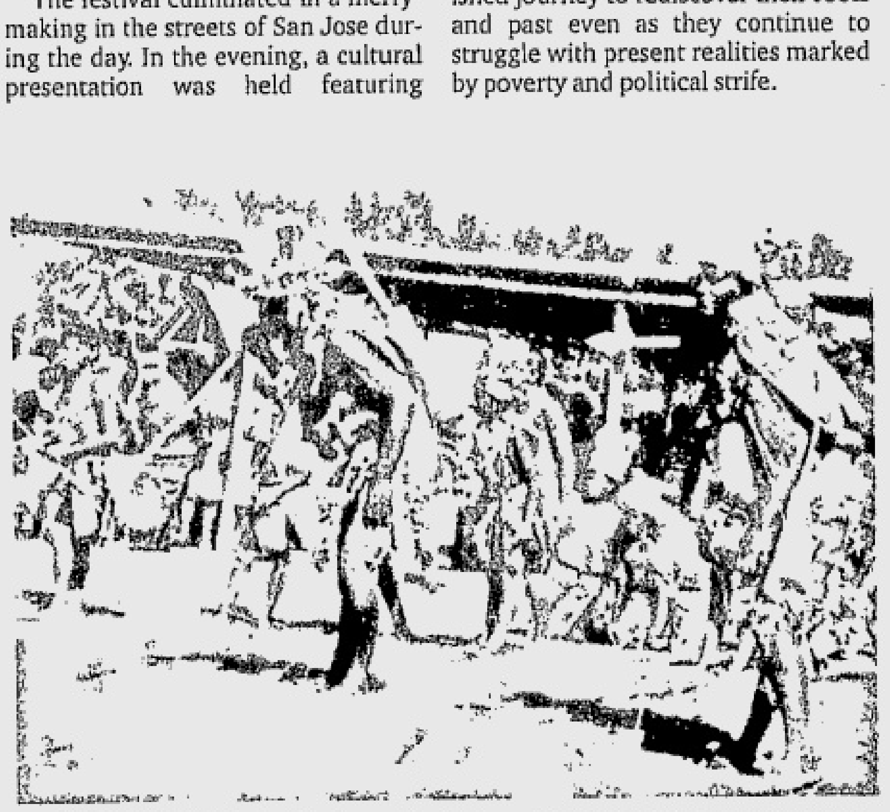
This year's festival is more elaborate. The opening day will feature Pasundayag, a trade and tourism fair that will showcase local products and tourist destinations of the province, and an art exhibit of local artists.

The reenactment will be held on the second day that will be participated in by government employees and civic groups. At least 56 motorized boats with colorful banners are expected in the fluvial parade. Prizes will be given to participants with the most colorful banners.

The festival will honor Antiqueño achievers on the third day in the Bugal Kang Antique. The merry-making, Ati tribe contests and the Lin-ay Kang Antique (Muse of Antique) will be held on the last day.

The holding of the festival this year has been boosted by the reopening of the Antique airport, which has been renamed Evelio Javier Airport. Antiqueños and other guests from Manila will be flown in by special flights, said Perez.

For many Antiqueños especially those residing outside the province, the Binirayan symbolizes the unfinished journey to rediscover their roots and past even as they continue to struggle with present realities marked by poverty and political strife.

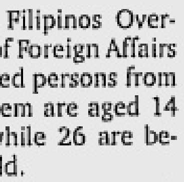


THE BINIRAYAN Festival features depictions of the arrival and settlement of Malayan chieftains on Panay Islandduring the 13th century. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The long wait for the Anti-Trafficking Law

LUCID INTERVAL

Rowena V. Guanzon



FINALLY, after eight years since it was first filed with the House of Representatives, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill was passed on third reading in the Senate last March 19. Senate President Franklin Drilon of Iloilo personally made the amendments to the bill filed by Sen. Loi Estrada after it was certified by President Macapagal-Arroyo for immediate enactment on Dec. 11, 2002.

It also helped that women's groups, including Zonta International, lobbied with Drilon to pass the bill, although it was the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific that has been working on it for years. The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women also lobbied without letup.

Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, has long been a problem in the country because of the lack of a law, the laxity of enforcement agencies, and corrupt airport and immigration employees who facilitate the exit of trafficked persons without visas or with fake visas.

This has been going on for years and the conspiracy among these corrupt people in the airports and piers is so tight that up to now, we don't hear of any syndicate being busted.

With all the odds going against poor women and girls who are trafficked, they will not seek justice and prosecute their recruiters unless the law and government agencies give them full support.

Congress takes a long time to pass laws protecting women and children. It took about nine years before the Anti-Rape Law of 1997 was passed even with the persistence of Sibol, an alliance of women's groups, and near "bloody" arguments with congressmen who refuse to include the provision on insertion of an "object" in the vagina or any orifice as rape.

It took eight years before the Anti-Trafficking Bill was passed on third reading in the Senate. In contrast, the Seat Belt law took only six years to pass.

If our legislators realized the gravity of the problem, they would have treated the bill on trafficking in persons with urgency.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas of the Department of Foreign Affairs has assisted 935 trafficked persons from 1999 to 2001. Six of them are aged 14 years old and below, while 26 are between 15 and 19 years old.

Even older women are not spared. Among them, two are aged 60 years old and above, and 81 are 30-49 years old.

The data do not include those who were trafficked for the purpose of selling their organs.

In 2002, 79 more Filipino women were trafficked. Among them, 29 were brought to South Korea, 20 to the Ivory Coast, 12 to Malaysia, three to Dubai [United Arab Emirates] and nine to Bahrain.

Traffickers prey on poor women, who are mostly from the provinces and deceived by offers of work abroad where they end up being prostituted.

Of the 935 women who were trafficked in 1999-2001, eight came from Western Visayas, eight from Central Visayas, and four from Eastern Visayas. Others came from the Cordillera Administrative Region and 80 from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The data cover only those who requested assistance and do not include the thousands of women and girls who could not seek help.

The Senate version rendered by Drilon defines trafficking as the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, provision, harboring, receipt or deployment of a person f the purpose of prostitution, pornograph forced labor, slavery, sexual exploitatio involuntary servitude, debt bondag physical and other forms of abuse, r moval or sale of organs, or involvement armed activities or other similar acts." T penalty is 20 years of imprisonment.

The penalty is life imprisonment if t trafficked person is a child, or the offend is an ascendant, sibling, guardian, pub officer or employee or member of the m tary or law enforcement agency, or wh the trafficked person is recruited to enga in prostitution with any member of t military or law enforcement agencies.

Women's rights advocates have lo complained that prostituted wom have been charged criminally but not t customers or "users."

The Senate bill has a provision exem ing the trafficked person from prose tion while penalizing the "user." Ther no similar provision in the House versi

Braganza to go on leave

From page A1

Bunye told dzRB radio that based on his last conversation with Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Braganza "will just go on medical leave."

On Braganza's recommendation, Press Undersecretary Milton Alingod will serve as officer in charge of the Press Secretary's office.

Palace sources have said that Braganza is undergoing treatment for diabetes and for "problems relating to his carotid vein."

Braganza cited health reasons in the resignation letter he gave the President last Tuesday.

But the sources said there were also "unofficial reasons" for Braganza's decision to resign.

Braganza has had a running feud over turf with Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, who used to be presidential spokesperson and press secretary and continues to be Malacañang's overall "communications director."

Based on an order earlier signed by the President, Tiglao has been empowered to oversee the operations of Braganza's and Bunye's offices.

Carlito Pablo

BRAGANZA

SARS 'virus' . . .

From page A1

clog networks, security experts said.

The virus is spread by e-mails that carry message lines including "SARS" or "I need your help," said a warning issued this week by McAfee Security.

By opening the e-mail, a computer user runs a program that can send copies of a similar message to others in the user's address book.

"This is a mass-mailing worm, which simply spreads via e-mail," McAfee said. "It does not contain a destructive payload. The worm sends itself to all addresses in the Windows address book." Security firms said the threat from the virus was low, but that it was exploiting fears of the deadly strain of pneumonia known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

The Security News Portal website said that in addition to this new virus, dubbed Coronex, the SARS epidemic "is also causing the scammers and fraudsters to come out from under their rock," offering products such as aerosol sprays to combat the disease.

AFP

4-day vacation coming up for gov't workers

From page A1

in the executive branch.

Because May 1 falls on Thursday, the additional holiday on May 2 would give government employees a four-day weekend.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye made the announcement over state-run Radyo ng Bayan, adding that President Macapagal-Arroyo would issue an executive order on this soon.

Bunye said state employees working in the police, military, fire, health and other such services are not covered by the May 2 holiday order. Employees in the judiciary and in Congress are also not covered.

Workers in private firms would be given the choice whether they want to take their Labor Day holiday on May 1 or on May 2.

"Private employers in consultation with their employees can select either May 1 or May 2 as non-working day," Bunye said.

Last year Ms Macapagal attempted to move the Labor Day holiday to another date, to April 29, a Monday, to give workers a three-day weekend.

Labor groups, however, cried in protest, so the President scrapped her decision and restored the holiday to May 1 after a dialogue with moderate labor leaders on April 15, 2002.

One of the labor leaders, Felicisimo Carillo, chair of the National Confederation of Labor, suffered a heart attack during the dialogue and later died in the hospital.

2003 METROBANK-MTAP-DEPED MATH CHALLENGE

National Winners
Grade 6 - Individual Competition
1st Place
NELLIE MARGARET S. CHUA
Chiang Kai Shek College
2nd Place
CHRISTINE W.S. CHEONG
Zamboanga Chong Hua High School
3rd Place
ERICK JUSTIN T. RAMOS
General Santos City SPED Integrated School

4Th Year - Individual Competition
1st Place
DEOGRACIAS P. VILLAME
Philippine Science High School, Manila
2nd Place
KENDRICK C. SAAVEDRA
Zamboanga Chong Hua High School
3rd Place
KRISTINA M. LIM
Philippine Science High School, Iloilo City

National Winners
Grade 6 Team Competition
1st Place
JONATHAN ALDRIC C. CHUA
ANNABELLEE D. CHUA
St. Jude Catholic School
2nd Place
ERICK JUSTIN T. RAMOS
KAYE MARIE SENAS
General Santos City SPED Integrated School
3rd Place
CHRISTINE W.S. CHEONG
SIGRID MARIANNE P. GAYANGOS
Zamboanga Chong Hua High School

4Th Year Team Competition
1st Place
DIANA JOYCE D. TEE
MALERIE H. DY
Chiang Kai Shek College
2nd Place
KRISTINA M. LIM
CHRISTIAN A. LIM
Philippine Science High School, Iloilo City
3rd Place
MICHAEL JOSEPH N. TAN
KENDRICK C. SAAVEDRA
Zamboanga Chong Hua High School

Regional Winners:
Individual Competition
Grade Six
CRISTY JOY Y. MACUGAY
Sinait West Elementary School, Ilocos Sur
JEROME F. CORPUZ
Miracle Living Christian Academy, Santiago City
KIM CHARMAINE Q. CORTEZ
San Fernando Elementary School
ANNA ELAINE D. MATANGUIHAN
Tanauan North Central School, Tanauan City
JOVEL O. NABIA
Polangui North Central School, Albay
RAY JOHN S. PAMILLO
Central Philippine University-Elementary School, Iloilo City
JUNEL V. DEJOS
Science and Technology Education Center, Cebu City
APPLE GRACE C. SIMANGAN
Dulag SPED Center, Leyte
WASHINGTON D. CO
Oro Christian Grace School
JAY BERNARD M. ANG
Davao Christian High School
FAYE MICHELLE P. GILBUENA
Butuan Central Elementary School SPED Center
JAKES EVERETTE D. LACOB
Tadian Central School

Regional Winners:
Individual Competition
Fourth Year
GILLIAN HOPE S. MACUSI
Regional Science High School, La Union
NESULLYSIS T. MATIAS
Saint Vincent School
CHRISTIAN JOHN D. RIGOR
Don Bosco Technical Institute, Tarlac City
MARK JOSEPH B. PRINCIPE
Gumaca National High School, Quezon
JOEL T. TABARANGAO
University of Saint Anthony
DON JOVEN R. AGRAVANTE
Cebu City National Science High School
HILARIO ESCORO, JR.
Bato School of Fisheries
LACENEAL N. LACTUAN
Integrated Development National High School - MSU - IIT, Iligan City
JOHN LYLE GOMEZ
Ateneo de Davao High School, Davao City
ANGELIC P. DUGASAN
General Santos City High School
NICKSON S. MOLMESA
Jacinto P. Elpa National High School, Surigao Del Sur
JOSE ANTONIO E. DUMAGAY
Baguio City National High School

Regional Winners:
Team Competition
Grade Six
CRISTY JOY Y. MACUGAY
MARY CLAIRE R. INOCELDA
Sinait West Elementary School, Ilocos Sur
JEROME F. CORPUZ
ROXANNE F. HIDALGO
Miracle Living Christian Academy, Santiago City
ROEL I. TIGLAO
CATHERINE Y. ROMERO
Dau Central Elementary School, Pampanga
ANNA ELAINE D. MATANGUIHAN
AUDRIK NEAL A. TENIOSO
Tanauan North Central School, Tanauan City
JOHN JAMES B. ASIS
APRIL APLE B. BRECIA
Bulan South Central School
DAWN IVA P. SATUMBAGA
BRYAN B. ATAS
West Visayas State University-Laboratory School, Iloilo City
JOHANNA LEI T. BANDOY
JOELVITO G. VILLALUZ, JR.
Silliman University Elementary School
REYNARD M. DOFITAS
RANDOLPH P. MARIBOJOC
Calbayog Pilot Central School, Calbayog City
WASHINGTON D. CO
DENNIS BRIAN G. TAN
Oro Christian Grace School
JESSIE JAMES U. DIZON
RALPH T. SUNGAHID
University of the Immaculate Conception, Davao City
ROCHELLE M. SABARILLO
GLENN M. GOLANDRINA
San Roque Central Elementary School
JAKES EVERETTE D. LACOB
DIANNE ECUAN
Tadian Central School

Regional Winners:
Team Competition
Fourth Year
DANTE B. SALVADOR, JR.
ALDIN D. GASPAR
Urdaneta City National High School
ARIEL C. GALAMGAM
ERIC JOHN N. ROMERO
Cagayan National High School, Tuguegarao City
CHRISTIAN JOHN D. RIGOR
MARC ARMAN JAY T. FLORES
Don Bosco Technical Institute, Tarlac City
KELVIN CHRYZTH P. VELASQUEZ
JOHN LAWRENCE G. DEQUINA
Laguna College
JOEL T. TABARANGAO
BENNY MARIE B. ENSANO
University of Saint Anthony
QUINLENE L. MERCULLO
LOYD M. OCAMPO
Dumaguete City Science High School
HILARIO ESCORO, JR.
NESTNIE HONRADA
Bato School of Fisheries
ROMAN ELNIC P. ROSETE
FRANCES CORAZON J. CASTRENCE
Corpus Christi School
JOSEPH C. SOROÑGON
ERIC E. CADENA
Philippine Science High School, Davao City
NICKSON S. MOLMESA
PETER NEIL E. TRINIDAD
Jacinto P. Elpa National High School, Surigao Del Sur
SHERWIN CABRADILLA
MARK CAESAR IAN ARNEDO
Tabuk National High School
Tabuk, Kalinga

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congratulates the winners of the

Metrobank-MTAP-DepEd Math Challenge

"MOVING FORWARD THROUGH
EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS"

They came from all over the country... each one of them intent on being proclaimed as among this year's Filipino math wizards.

After more than two months of intense competition, these six students emerged on top of almost 300,000 participants who joined the 2003 National Math Challenge. Sponsored by the Metrobank Foundation, in partnership with the Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines and the Department of Education, the contest aims to encourage greater interest in mathematics among the young by providing them with a venue to hone their mathematical knowledge and skills.

Beyond solving mathematical problems, the National Math Challenge makes a contribution to nation building by teaching children the values of discipline, team effort, and hard work – all vital to the formation of our next generation of leaders.

To these math wizards and world-class Filipinos of the future, our best wishes!

THE FIRST PLACE WINNERS
L-R(Top)
Deogracias P. Villame
4th yr. HS (Individual) Philippine Science High School (QC)
Diana Joyce D. Tee
HS (Team) Chiang Kai Shek College
Jonathan Aldric C. Chua
Grade 6 (Team) St. Jude Catholic School

L-R(Bottom)
Nellie Margaret S. Chua
Grade 6 (Individual) Chiang Kai Shek College
Malerie H. Dy
(HS Team) Chiang Kai Shek College
Annabellee D. Chua
Grade 6 (Team) St. Jude Catholic School

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RP 'no longer SARS-free,' says Dayrit

From page A1

Samar from Hong Kong on April 10. *(See story on page A1)*

The woman, with the initials JP, brings to four the number of SARS cases in the Philippines, after the Catalons and a 64-year-old German national who has since recovered and who, according to health authorities, did not infect anyone else.

With these developments, Dayrit said he had decided to cancel his trip to Kuala Lumpur to take part in a meeting of health ministers. The meeting is in preparation for the Asean leaders' summit on SARS scheduled on April 28-31 in Bangkok.

"All in all, we already have four documented SARS cases in the country. Three of them came from abroad, while one is local transmission," Dayrit said.

He said that given the "confusion" caused by the "probable SARS" classification formulated by the World Health Organization, the DOH had decided to drop the term.

"From now on, we will be reporting all cases as SARS. Forget the term 'probable,'" he said, adding that the other classification now would be "suspected SARS," to refer to those who had come from a SARS-infected country and had contracted fever.

Jean Marc Olive, WHO representative in the Philippines, said the local transmission between the Catalons put the country on the infected SARS list, along with China, Canada, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam.

Olive urged the public not to panic and to continue to concentrate on measures to help contain the spread of the disease.

But Lawrence Tan Icay, a manager at a shipping company, told Reuters that the situation was "scary."

"Everyone is nervous," Icay said. "I don't think the government is prepared for SARS. It's going to be hard for [authorities] to control it."

Home quarantine

Dayrit said the DOH had put JP's physician as well as her husband and parents under home quarantine in Barangay Maybocog in Maydolong, Eastern Samar.

"There is no local transmission of SARS [in JP's case] because we have quarantined her contacts in time," he said.

The woman, who worked as a domestic helper in Hong Kong, reportedly came down with fever and pneumonia on April 20 but was "afebrile" or without fever as of yesterday afternoon.

Dayrit said, however, that JP was also diagnosed as afflicted with tuberculosis. He said this could also be the reason she came down with fever.

JP reportedly started to feel body pains on April 16. But a private doctor she subsequently consulted did not order her confinement in hospital because she was deemed "not seriously ill."

The confirmed SARS cases are expected to deal a heavy blow to the country, which relies on billions of dollars sent home every year by Filipinos working overseas.

Shipping manager Icay said that the SARS scare had prompted him to wear a mask when walking outdoors and that his company had advised its sailors to stay aboard ship and avoid crowded places.

But Paul Mower, a vice president at the Philippine unit of Canadian insurer Sun Life, said SARS was "another thing not to be concerned about" in a country suffering from economic problems, widespread corruption and frequent rebel attacks.

"I didn't think there would ever be a [SARS] case here," he told Reuters. "I didn't think it would survive the pollution."

'Gracious twist of fate'

Dayrit aired the assurance that none of Adela Catalon's other "close contacts" had exhibited SARS symptoms and were likely to be freed from home quarantine today.

He added: "By some gracious twist of fate, we noticed that those who had contact with [Adela] and came down with pneumonia or fever have recovered after a short confinement in hospital."

It was a reference to the X-ray technician at the San Lazaro Hospital who had attended to Adela, and the three persons—Adela's brother-in-law who served as her driver, an 11-year-old boy and a baby—who, along with her father, were taken to the Research Institute on Tropical Medicine in Alabang and treated there.

Adela, who worked as a nursing aide in Canada, returned to her native Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan, on April 5. Before she was taken to the San Lazaro Hospital on April 12, she made trips to several other places in search of a cancer specialist for her father.

Yesterday in Alcala, Mayor Juanito Collado said he would wait for the DOH to decide whether it would extend the 14-day quarantine imposed on three zones of Vacante, which expires today at midnight.

Mauricio Catalon's sealed coffin is to be taken to Vacante today.

Health officials had wanted the body buried immediately, but Collado said he had requested the DOH to cremate it in order to allay the fears of the barangay residents.

"I hope the DOH will listen to our request," he said. *With reports from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Reuters*

GMA temper helps to contain spread of virus

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE TEMPER of President Macapagal-Arroyo may just be what the doctor ordered to contain the spread of SARS by obeying quarantine rules.

"Huwag ninyong isipin na tayo'y nag-iistrikto dahil gusto lang nating magtaray. Hindi (Don't think that we're being strict just because we're being snooty)," she said yesterday in Navotas, where she inaugurated the municipal hall.

"Lahat ng katarayan ng gobyerno pati akin na rin ay para sa kapakanan ng ating bansa (The government's short fuse and that of my own, is for the good of the country)," she added.

Ms Macapagal told residents of Navotas that quarantine is part of safety measures to check the spread of SARS.

"This should not be something to be ashamed of," she said.

She told them that should Navotas be placed on quarantine one day, she hoped they would not take it against her.

"That has not happened yet. But if that time comes, it's important that we be united and we understand how important the discipline of quarantine is," she said.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal also said she was sorry the people of Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan, who are under quarantine until today, are being ostracized.

WHO fears horrifying epidemic if SARS spreads to India, Bangladesh

From page A1

propaganda department, denied rumors that authorities planned to declare martial law in Beijing or close the city's airports and highways.

Cai said inspection teams were being sent to 147 city hospitals to ensure that they were following guidelines on handling potential SARS cases. He said the city government was coordinating with China's military to ensure that all cases were reported.

"We will absolutely not let a single case slip by," Cai said.

China reported five new SARS fatalities nationwide yesterday, raising the mainland's death toll to 115. The country also had 179 new cases of infection, raising its total to 2,601.

Beijing reported 103 new cases and three deaths, bringing the total number to 877 cases and 42 deaths.

The Ditan Hospital, which is treating more than 100 SARS patients including foreigners, was closed yesterday. Some 600 medical staff were told they could not go home.

"Before, we were isolating the infectious disease ward within the hospital compound. Now the whole hospital is cordoned off," said a hospital official surnamed Zhao.

The Ditan, which specializes in infectious diseases, was one of several hospitals designated to take SARS patients. Most of the doctors in the hospital are living in a hotel nearby, but it was not immediately clear whether they were forced to stay there or if they were living there by choice to avoid infecting their families.

Last Thursday, the People's Hospital with more than 1,000 workers and patients was quarantined.

4,000 quarantined at home

New quarantine measures took effect for 4,000 people who had come in "intimate contact" with others showing SARS symptoms. The deputy director general of the Beijing Health Bureau didn't say who the people were or how long they had been ordered to stay home.

The announcement by Guo Jiyong came two days after Beijing said it was invoking emergency powers to quarantine people exposed to the virus that causes Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The quarantine applies to hospitals, factories, construction sites, hotels, restaurants, office buildings, residential buildings, villages, schools and other designated places where the virus has been found.

Roadblocks were thrown up around the city of 13 million, reinforcing residents' fears that the Chinese capital is to be isolated. Police officers manning the roadblocks said their purpose was to stop people from heading into neighboring Hebei province where just six SARS cases have been reported so far.

"If they don't have medical proof from the proper disease control center that they don't have SARS symptoms, then we won't let them through," one mask-clad policeman on the border said.

An official circular from the Beijing municipal government meanwhile said all college students and teachers were "prohibited from leaving" the capital for the May Day holidays, which have been cut back from seven days to five. It said any students who insisted on leaving must have written documents proving they are healthy.

Students who have poor health and are from rural areas, western parts of the country or areas with SARS are prohibited from leaving altogether.

Residents in panic

The government reassured Beijing residents there was enough food and medicine to meet demand as supermarket shelves were stripped by panic buyers fearing the capital would be isolated over SARS.

Zhang Zhigang, Vice Minister of Commerce, said the ministry had adopted measures to stabilize the market. He said the ministry had set up an office to supervise the preparation and allocation of commodity and medical supplies such as masks and disinfectants.

A nationwide information system had been established to gather data on the purchase, sale, stocks and prices of these commodities, Zhang said, adding that a 24-hour hotline was in place to ensure the timely distribution of supplies.

Many supermarkets in Beijing have reported a surge in demand as shoppers rushed to stock up on basic commodities like rice, cooking oil and noodles in the belief that the capital was on the verge of being isolated.

Taiwan hospital closed

In Taiwan, authorities sealed off the Taipei Municipal Ho Ping Hospital last Thursday after more than 25 suspected SARS cases were discovered. About 1,000 doctors, nurses, patients and visitors will have to stay there for up to two weeks. Many were furious.

"I am not sick. Why should I be quarantined?" a nurse shouted to reporters.

Some patients posted signs and raised placards to the windows of the downtown hospital.

"Quarantining healthy people is against the law. Do not treat us like birds with bird flu or pigs with foot-and-mouth disease," wrote one patient.

Taiwan has strong business and ethnic ties with China and Hong Kong, but has reported only 41 probable cases of SARS.

Malaysia, Thailand, US

In Malaysia, four new suspected SARS cases were reported as authorities said they were investigating a 20-year-old Chinese woman with apparent symptoms who was arrested while trying to sneak in from Singapore.

The woman has been hospitalized.

The Star newspaper said the woman and three Malaysian men were found squeezed in the boot of a car late Wednesday while trying to cross the causeway into southern Malaysia's Johor state from Singapore. The driver escaped while the four have been referred to health officials after they were found to have fever and cough.

In Thailand, the health ministry reported an eighth probable SARS case yesterday and said the victim may have contracted the disease in London. The woman had been in contact with a Chinese businessman during her stay there.

In the United States, the virus was found in six more patients, bringing the US total to 245 "suspected" cases, but only 39 were probable cases, meaning they had pneumonia as well as fever and cough or other symptoms, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. All but two had traveled to Asia or Toronto, suggesting that the disease was not spreading freely. *Reuters, AFP, AP*

Dayrit named...

From page A1

in a yet unsigned executive order the President read before the media right after a meeting with Cabinet officials in Malacañang.

Under the EO, Dayrit can:

- Enlist the support of any government agency, including the military and police, to enforce the quarantine of a certain area.
- Order the arrest and detention of any SARS suspect to prevent transmission.
- Prevent the entry and exit of persons and cargoes to stop local transmission of SARS.
- Decide if it is necessary to close any public or private school, and to utilize such buildings for containing SARS; and come up with the rules and regulations to contain, treat, and manage SARS cases in hospitals and quarantine areas.

In the EO, the President said those violating the orders to be issued by the DOH and other government agencies "shall be punished in accordance with law and all applicable rules and regulations related thereby."

"No arrests and detentions shall be enforced except upon lawful processes emanating from courts or upon orders of the Secretary of Health for the purpose of preventing the introduction, transmission or spread of SARS," the EO said.

In it, the President authorized checkpoints in quarantine areas for "a limited period of time."

DAYRIT: People's welfare is supreme law.

In invoking state police powers to deal with SARS, the President cited the principle of Salus Populi Est Suprema Lex (the welfare of the people is the supreme law) laid out in the Revised Administrative Code.

"In the event that the epidemic can no longer be prevented, there is equally the necessity to institute such measures as would confine, restrict or otherwise prevent the further spread of the epidemic," the President said in the EO.

The President said the P1-billion standby fund for SARS would come from the PCSO.

Iraq deputy PM surrenders to US troops

From page A1

Persian Gulf War and was a frequent spokesperson at that time.

With his flawless English, the silver-haired Aziz also frequently represented his government's views to Western media, denouncing the United States and claiming Iraq had no chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

He last appeared in public March 19, when he held a news conference in Baghdad to quash rumors he had fled the Iraqi capital.

"I am carrying my pistol to confirm to you that we are ready to fight the aggressors," Aziz said then. "American soldiers are nothing but mercenaries and they will be defeated."

Though he was one of Saddam's most loyal aides, Aziz, like most who were not from Saddam's Tikriti clan, had virtually no power, US officials said. That could explain his longevity in Saddam's inner circle—without an independent power base, he posed no threat.

Saddam promoted him after the 1991 Gulf War to deputy prime minister, forcing him to relinquish the foreign ministry portfolio. Some believe this reshuffle had to do with Saddam's discomfort with Cabinet ministers who became too well known.

Twelve former top Iraqi officials have now been reeled in by a US-led dragnet since the fall of Baghdad.

Aziz was 43rd in the US list of 55 most wanted Iraqis. Three others, including Saddam's cousin Ali "Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid, have been killed.

WMD destroyed?

Bush suggested that Baghdad may have destroyed the banned weapons of mass destruction at the core of his case for military action.

US-led forces scouring Iraq for the chemical and biological weapons that Saddam insisted for years had already been eliminated have yet to turn up any evidence.

"But we know he had them, and whether he destroyed them, moved them or hid them, we're going to find out the truth," Bush said in Ohio on a visit to a factory which builds the Abrams tank that played a key role in the war.

Bush told the American network NBC that the United States was seeking to confirm evidence that Saddam was dead or "at very minimum was severely wounded" to be sure of the ousted leader's fate.

TARIQ AZIZ: No. 47 in the US Most Wanted List of Iraqi leaders has fallen. AFP

Bush, who has said the war will not be over until Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander of US forces in Iraq, says so, nearly declared victory the other day in remarks in Canton, Ohio.

"We fought a war in Afghanistan, and now we have finished a war—in the process of finishing a war in Iraq," he said, adding that "the mission is not complete. Our forces still face danger in Iraq."

Bush said that the task of putting Iraqis in charge of their country may take two years: "It could. Or less. Who knows?"

"I dismiss the critics who say that democracy can't flourish in Iraq. It may not look like America. You know, Thomas Jefferson may not emerge," he said, referring to the author of the US Declaration of Independence.

"But the point we're making is that the foundation for democracy is now being laid," he said, downplaying surging anti-US sentiment at demonstrations in Iraq.

New gov't next week

On the post-war front, Washington's interim administrator in Iraq said the formation of a new Iraqi government would start next week.

Speaking after talks with some of Iraq's prospective new leaders, retired US general Jay Garner told reporters: "I think you'll begin to see the governmental process start next week, by the end of next week. It will have Iraqi faces on it. It will be governed by the Iraqis."

Garner began searching for local leaders to work with US forces occupying Iraq to rebuild the country after 24 years of Saddam's rule, meeting with an all-male group of 60 handpicked Iraqis.

US and British coalition forces have also restarted some oil and gas production for domestic use in the battered country, said Maj. Gen. Carl Strock, an aide to Garner.

"This is strictly for domestic use, for Iraqi internal needs—it's not for export," he added.

Turf battle

Saddam's son Uday did not like Aziz. In 1996, Aziz's son Ziad was arrested for corruption in what Baghdad insiders saw as a turf battle between Ziad and Uday, who was equally known for graft.

Ziad Aziz served about two years in prison for corruption before Saddam pardoned him. Tariq Aziz has two daughters and another son, named Saddam.

Despite his fluctuating relationship with Saddam, Tariq Aziz retained influence.

In early 1990, Saddam toyed with opening up his regime and introducing a new constitution that would grant limited freedoms. Aziz advised against this, saying it would be the beginning of the end of Baath party rule. Saddam listened and the reforms never transpired.

Born in 1936 near the northern city of Mosul, Aziz studied English literature at Baghdad College of Fine Arts and became a teacher and journalist. He joined the Baath Party in 1957, working closely with Saddam to overthrow the British-imposed monarchy.

Aziz changed his name from Mikhail Yuhanna. In Arabic, Tariq Aziz means "glorious past."

Aziz was instrumental in restoring diplomatic relations with the United States in 1984 after a 17-year break. He had met in 1983 with Donald H. Rumsfeld, then a private envoy from President Ronald Reagan and now US defense secretary. At the time, the United States backed Iraq as a buffer against Iran's Islamic extremism. *AP, Reuters, AFP*

Samar woman RP's 4th SARS case

From page A1

severe cough, pneumonia and high fever, and had come from Hong Kong where SARS cases were rife.

JP, who was wearing a surgical mask, sat at the back of the ambulance and did not appear weak. Her husband, who sat on the front seat, had agreed to be quarantined with her.

The couple entered a small stainless gate, which had been designated by the EVRMC as the only point of entry for SARS patients, to get to the isolation rooms in the annex building.

At about 6 a.m. yesterday, police acting under orders of Tacloban Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. put up a checkpoint at the Leyte side of the San Juanico Bridge. The purpose: to stop the DOH-8 team from taking JP to the EVRMC.

The mayor grudgingly agreed to lift the checkpoint in the afternoon, after his cousin Alberto Romualdez, health secretary during the Estrada administration, convinced him that all measures had been taken to ensure that the SARS virus would not spread.

On Wednesday, Leyte Gov. Remedios "Matin" Petilla asked the DOH to have JP confined at the provincial hospital in Borongan.

Petilla told the INQUIRER that she was not ostracizing JP but only wanting to protect the people of Leyte, especially those in Tacloban.

"We cannot afford to put at risk so many lives in favor of an individual," she said, and warned that JP might infect other patients at the EVRMC, the biggest hospital in the Eastern Visayas.

DOH-8 assistant regional director Benito Pastor described JP as "ambulatory," or capable of walking.

He said that the patient would be confined in an air-conditioned isolation room equipped with an oxygen tank, and that a team of nurses and doctors trained to handle SARS cases would attend to her.

DOH chief epidemiologist Nicholas Bautista and regional sentinel nurse Boyd Cerro arrived on board a pickup at Barangay Maybocog in Maydolong, Eastern Samar—about 224 kilometers from Tacloban—to collect JP.

The party left at about 2:30 p.m.

DOH-8 information officer Ligaya Anacta-Acosta said they requested the police escorts after receiving reports that some people might stop the team from taking the patient to Tacloban.

14 days

Pastor told the INQUIRER that JP would be confined at the EVRMC "for just 14 days."

He said the patient would be observed closely to determine if she was infected with the SARS virus. Her blood and tissue samples will be sent to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Metro Manila for lab testing.

Pastor said that based on his conversation with Bautista, JP was "all too willing to be examined and confined" in a hospital.

"She herself is aware of the possible effects if she will continue being in contact with other persons ... including her husband," Pastor said.

He also quoted JP as saying that she immediately isolated herself at home after noticing that she was exhibiting SARS symptoms.

Bacus said they had started "contact tracing" to determine JP's movements after she arrived from Hong Kong on April 9.

JP started feeling ill five days after her arrival. She went to the Eastern Samar Provincial Hospital in the capital town of Borongan, where she was diagnosed to have pneumonia and high fever.

Tacloban health authorities wanted her confined at the EVRMC, which had been designated as the region's SARS center.

But local officials were unhappy about the arrangement.

It was Bacus who sought the help of Alberto Romualdez to convince Mayor Romualdez to allow JP to enter the city.

In a hastily called press conference attended by Bacus and Acosta, Mayor Romualdez said he put up the checkpoint in an effort to protect the city's 178,639 residents.

"As a father of this [city], it is my duty to protect the welfare and condition of my people," he said, adding that his cousin had assured him "that the patient will be isolated and that all extra precautionary measures for the virus not to spread will be taken."

Bacus said she welcomed the mayor's change of heart and sought to allay his fears.

Petilla, however, remained firm in her belief that JP should be confined, not at the EVRMC, but at the provincial hospital in Borongan."

She said the possibility that the SARS virus would spread was not remote because the government-run EVRMC lacked the facilities needed by a SARS patient.

She also said she was ready to provide financial assistance to the DOH-8 if needed, just to have JP confined at the Borongan hospital.

JP, a college grad, worked as DH in HK for 8 years

By Cyrain G. Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, E. Samar—JP, married with no children, is a college graduate who has been working in Hong Kong as a domestic helper for the past eight years.

She arrived in the country complaining of tightness in the chest, back pain, and cough. She was diagnosed in Hong Kong as afflicted with a goiter, but has a history of exposure to a known SARS case in a Hong Kong library.

It took hours of negotiation between Department of Health regional director Mila Bacus and the Tacloban City government before JP was given clearance to pass San Juanico Bridge and be allowed admittance to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center.

Added the assistant director at the provincial hospital in Borongan: "The patient was actually hesitant to travel and to undergo further checkup because she fears that her life is dispensable already to other people, being the first SARS patient in the region. It might do her harm than good."

SARS BRIEFS

Jail terms doubled

SINGAPORE'S parliament yesterday vested the health ministry with draconian powers to contain the SARS outbreak, passing legislation doubling jail terms and fines for those who breach quarantine orders and other offenses.

First offenders are now fined S$10,000 ($5,649) and/or imprisoned up to six months, up from S$5,000 and no jail component. For repeat offenders, the fine was doubled to S$20,000 and/or a prison term of up to 12 months.

In an emotional debate, parliament passed amendments to the Infectious Diseases Act empowering the health ministry to deal with SARS, which has ravaged the city-state's economy and killed at least 17 people.

Refusal to cooperate with disease control measures as well as providing misleading information to doctors about an individual's travel history to SARS-affected areas and contacts with patients afflicted by the atypical pneumonia has been made an offense. *AFP*

Under fire

HONG KONG—The Hong Kong Hospital Authority came under fire in the local media for allegedly not providing enough protective gear for frontline workers—more than 300 of whom have been sickened by SARS on the job.

The Hospital Authority's acting chief executive admitted management had not done as well as it could have in dealing with the crisis that has infected 1,510 people here and killed 115, including six deaths that were announced yesterday.

"I must admit the performance of the whole management, especially under my guidance, does not reach many people's expectations," Dr. Ko Wing-man said during a radio interview. Ko has offered to resign.

Ko took over day-to-day operations after his boss, hospital chief William Ho, came down with SARS last month. Ho has recovered but is still off duty resting.

Some medical workers have been lobbying for protective suits for weeks, according to the South China Morning Post, which launched a campaign to seek donations for buying high-tech "Barrierman" protective suits for workers dealing with SARS outbreaks.

Health workers have been falling ill daily for almost a month, and the Hong Kong political leader, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, has pledged to "dramatically" reduce their infections as soon as possible. *AP, AFP*

No shoppers

TORONTO—A day after the World Health Organization warning to avoid nonessential travel to Canada's biggest city, shops in a trendy downtown mall are starting to feel the impact of the advisory.

At Jewels by Koby in the Eaton Center, Hillie Schmiedhammer sat with one assistant and rows of untouched necklaces and rings.

"Usually by now, with the warmer weather, we have people from everywhere shopping here," Schmiedhammer said of the mall amid gleaming skyscrapers a few blocks from the Lake Ontario waterfront. "But look, even McDonald's is empty."

Health authorities lambasted the WHO advisory as improper and unwarranted, but acknowledged there was little chance the UN agency would reverse itself.

The impact of SARS was first felt by Toronto's 400,000-strong Chinese community, with restaurants and shopping malls reporting business down by 70 percent.

The hardship is now spreading to other parts of the city of three million people, which accounts for about a fifth of the country's total economic activity. Merchants generally are reporting business is down—particularly among American tourists who come by bus, car and plane. *AP, Reuters, AFP*

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2 6 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 14 18 21 29 44

LATE SPORTS

Shell triumphs; Bull run stopped

Marc Anthony Reyes

SHELL'S still very much around.

THE TURBOCHARGERS made sure FedEx would feel that last night as they opened the fourth quarter with all guns blazing and roared to an 80-65 win in the PBA Samsung All Filipino Cup at the Philsports Arena.

With most of the teams taking them lightly, the Turbochargers sent across a strong message in outclassing the Express to raise their card to 3-9 with six games left in the elimination.

Meanwhile, Batang Red Bull's Jimwell Torion was found positive for drug use and was slapped with indefinite suspension by the PBA effective immediately. The sanction was the stiffest ever imposed by the league for such violation. The league also ruled that the 5-foot-7 guard undergo rehabilitation.

Asi Taulava hit a jumper with a second left as Talk N Text snapped Batang Red Bull's 9-game winning run with a 98-96 overtime victory in the second game. Talk N Text rose to 7-5 while Red Bull fell to 10-2.

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'Don't treat us with disgust'

By Alcuin Papa, Luige del Puerto and Nelson Flores

"*HUWAG niyo kaming pandirihan* (Don't treat us with disgust)."

This was the plea of the Quezon City family whom nurse Adela Catalon visited just days before she died allegedly of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in a Manila hospital.

Quezon City health officials are now monitoring the family residing in Barangay Pag-asa, according to Perry Bilaos, barangay chairperson.

The family members, relatives of Catalon, sent a message to barangay officials, protesting the way people are treating them.

"Even our neighbors have been avoiding us," the family members said.

Radio stations on Thursday reported that Catalon, the nursing aide from Canada, visited her relatives in Barangay Pag-asa, stirring fear among the residents in the area, Bilaos told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"*Nagpa*-panic *ang mga tao* (people are panicking), especially those who do not know the family," Bilaos said.

Bilaos said that according to a Department of Health report, Catalon stayed overnight with the family.

Catalon's relatives denied this.

"The family said Catalon stayed briefly, only to say hi," Bilaos said.

DON'T/A21

URBAN SUMMIT

ERIK ARAZAS

President Macapagal-Arroyo beams as she welcomes to Malacañang 16 city mayors who are attending the Urban Mayors' summit in Manila. Beside Ms Macapagal is summit host Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Vicencio out, Yambao in as Malabon mayor for 60 days

AFTER issuing an inter-office memorandum that he would assume office as acting Mayor of Malabon last Thursday, Vice Mayor Mark Allan Jay Yambao took his oath of office before a Quezon City notary public at about midnight yesterday.

Yambao was sworn into office by Quezon City notary public Alexander L. Bansil inside the Dulcinea Restaurant on Tomas Morato Street in Quezon City following the preventive suspension order issued to incumbent mayor Amada Vicencio.

But the acting mayor failed to report for work yesterday, according to Malabon Public Information Officer Gerry Gonzales.

Supporters of Vicencio have continued to form barricades around City Hall yesterday, but Gonzales said that they would have allowed Yambao to enter the building since he is the vice mayor.

The barricade was formed last Monday by Vicencio's supporters

VICENCIO/A21

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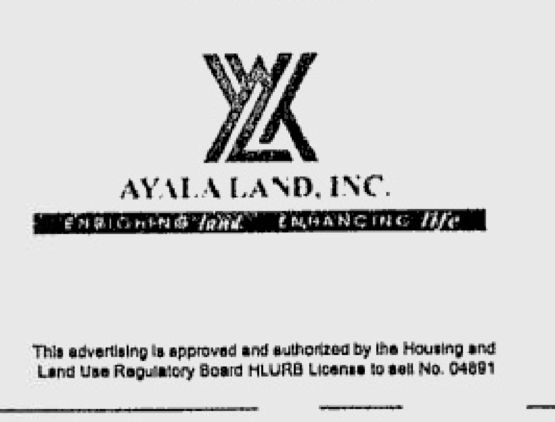

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It's easy for thieves to 'legalize' stolen cars

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Second of three parts

IT TAKES all kinds to steal a car. As mentioned earlier, the armed ones forcibly take (FT) the cars of their victims. But those who steal parked cars (the offense is classified as SWP—stolen while parked) are a varied lot. Most of them do not have firearms, only tools for opening and starting the vehicle. This way, if they are caught in the act, they could say they were only stealing valuables inside, like the stereo and personal stuff, and would be charged only with petty theft.

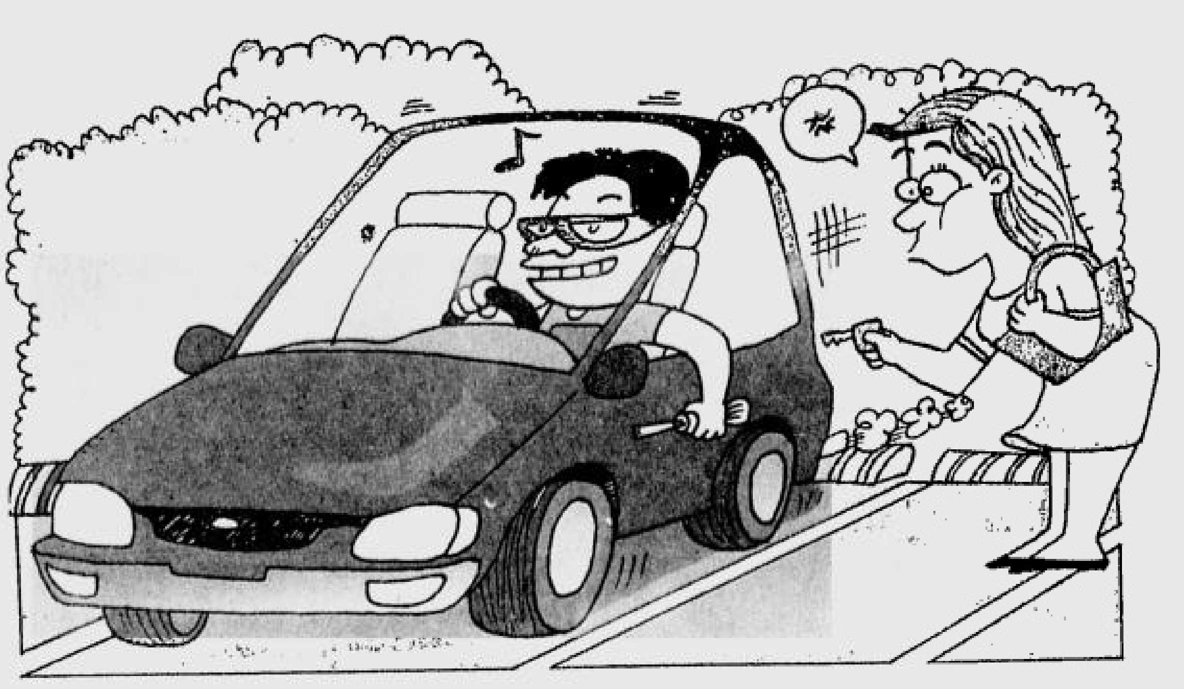
The ones who do SWP—the ones who run the errands and deliver the goods—are the small fry. It is the big fish that attend to the makeover, acquisition of new identity and eventual sale of the stolen property, either as a whole new resurrected car, or in pieces, a.k.a., "chop-chop." These people have the connections.

Organized gangs of car thieves maintain garages where the stolen MVs (motor vehicles) are brought. Some years ago, a big place in posh Ayala-Alabang was discovered to be the "parking lot" of stolen vehicles. But these MVs are not kept for long under a blanket.

If the stolen MV, say a Honda CRV, is an "order" it is brought right away to a place for a makeover.

Where do they go?

Stolen MVs, more often than not, reach their intended destinations before the so-called nationwide alert is issued. Despite the archipelagic nature of the Philippines which requires island hopping, many stolen MVs leave Metro Manila, the car thieves' favorite haunt, for the provinces without much hassle.



There are stories about certain middle-income island provinces suddenly awash in second-hand cars with that spanking new look. The more expensive top-of-the line sport utility vehicles (SUV) need not go far but, some police sources said that way back, these vehicles were taken to as far as Indonesia, via the back door.

Anti-car theft police officials bemoan the scrapping of the clearance for interisland travel/transport of MVs. Clearance is a deterrent to car theft, but this has been a hassle for motorists who preferred to do interisland travel on wheels. This practice has been scrapped.

Spotting operations

If car theft syndicates do spotting operations, so do anti-car theft police operatives. At Manila's Western Police District, an anti-car theft unit goes on regular spotting operations. The operatives, clad in T-shirts with their unit's name, set up checkpoints.

"There is always a uniformed officer with us," said a policeman. This way, he said, motorists would not think they are out to do mischief.

It could be any time, day or night. Suspicious-looking vehicles are stopped and their papers and serialized parts inspected. The operatives carry a list of cars that have been stolen. Sometimes they are lucky to catch one or two, but these are not necessarily the vehicles that were stolen in their district.

Spotting operations do not bring in big hauls, but they could be a deterrent if they are done often and are widespread.

Chop-chop

Victims of car theft go through separation blues and tend to scour the landscape for a period of time, hoping to spot what they have lost. Columnist Ramon Tulfo advice victims not to hope too much. It is better to work on insurance claims.

Immediate recovery happens if the stolen MV is abandoned after being used as a getaway vehicle. If there are no leads, recovering a vehicle after a few days have passed is like looking for a needle in a haystack. Police statistics on recoveries on a particular year do not necessarily correspond with the losses of that year.

But the question remains: Where are all the stolen cars? Why can't the police find the places where these big items are brought? These stolen items are not pieces of jewelry that can fit into a box.

Not all stolen cars undergo a make-over and sold whole. Many go through the chopping block—they are dismantled right away and the parts are sold. This is called "chop-chop."

But why should a relatively new vehicle that commands a good price be chopped up? The answer: the car thieves, particularly the small-time ones, put in no big investment, only a few light instruments to operate. They want the salable parts turned into cash right away. There are always buyers, among them, assemblers of vehicles and dealers in car parts and accessories.

The "chop-chop" operators sell the unserialized parts. The engine and chassis, which have the identity numbers, are relegated to the junkyard for recycling.

Senior Supt. Eliseo de la Paz, technical assistant for operations and law enforcement at the LTO, said that car theft thrives "because there are takers."

"These end-users are also victims," he said. "They lack information."

Police and transportation authorities know that many stolen MVs are taken to nearby provinces such as Bulacan and Pampanga where "chop-chop" shops operate. On a clear day, one could drop by those places to shop for items—bumpers, mirrors, fenders, windshields, name it.

"Many "chop-chop" parts end up in legit car parts shops in cities. These items are called "original" or "genuine," meaning they came from the original makers. They are sold alongside new "non-orig" parts which are "not as good as the orig."

Banawe Street in Quezon City is the place to go for car parts and installation, if one knows what to look for. But it is also the place where many stolen parts end up.

A pair of side mirrors that costs a couple of thousands in the *casa* could go lower than P500 if one knows how to haggle and intimidate (as in, "I know that's stolen and those are probably mine and you could be in trouble").

Those stolen at random and to be sold whole need only a paint job and re-accessorizing.

Behind the car theft

According to Supt. Benelito A. Bianzon of the Traffic Management Group's operations department, car theft serves many different purposes. Stolen vehicles could be used to move stolen goods, for vice operations, and as a source of big money.

The last one—though difficult to admit on the part of law enforcers—has to be organized and with the connivance of groups and individuals in and out of government, aided by undesirable elements such as fixers.

There are many ways to "legalize" a stolen vehicle. One could buy a fake official receipt and certificate of registration (OR-CR) for a vehicle on Claro M. Recto Avenue or behind some LTO branches.

"Try it," said a top police official. "You'll find someone who will sell you one. It is fake, of course."

Bianzon cites the case of a Korean national who did not return a car to the rent-a-car company. He acquired a fake OR-CR and simply typed his name on them.

There are so-called tamperers who can tamper with the vehicles' etchings and alter the serial numbers. A 3 could become an 8, a 1 become a 7. An LTO insider could then issue papers corresponding to the new numbers.

Before a new registration is issued for a stolen vehicle and its new owner, the vehicle has to get a clearance from TMG.

First, the police crime laboratory would run a macroetching process on a car to determine if the number etchings on the car's body and chassis have not been tampered with. If the vehicle passes the test, clearance is issued. The certificate would follow.

(To be continued)

REPORTED STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES
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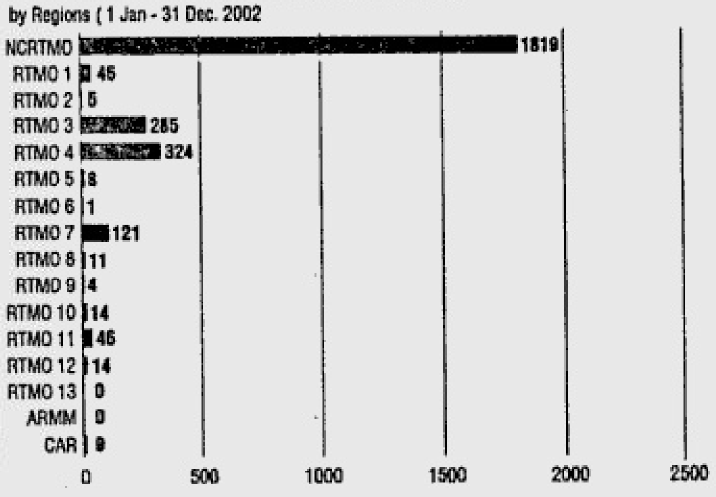

Sacked cops reinstated

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF YOU go out to dine nowadays, don't wear expensive jewelry and carry just enough cash to pay for your restaurant bill. It would be better if you just carry your credit cards.

Holdups in restaurants are back, with customers as victims.

Outback Restaurant in Libis, Quezon City was held up by 10 armed men at 9:30 p.m. Thursday. About 50 customers were stripped of their cash and valuables. The restaurant cashier was spared.

And to think that President Macapagal-Arroyo jubilantly reported recently that the incidence of street crimes in Metro Manila had gone down.

* * *

The best way to prevent street crimes from happening is to have maximum police visibility. Policemen on foot patrol and those riding in patrol cars should be making the rounds in strategic and crime-prone areas.

But the police can only do so much. They need patrol cars with gasoline and communication equipment. These our policemen don't have because the government lacks funds.

If the government can't provide the patrol cars with gasoline and two-way radios, then it's the duty of the citizenry to fill in the lack. After all, it's the citizenry that suffers when criminals are on the rampage.

* * *

In 1998, seven new graduates of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) went on a drinking binge and got so drunk they beat up waitresses of a karaoke joint and a 62-year-old woman, the joint owner.

Then newly appointed PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso was so angered by the complaint against the new police inspectors that he ordered them dismissed from the service.

When Fely Suyat came to see me at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" she had bruises and scratches on her face and arms. What struck me most was her big black eye. How could they do this to an old woman, I thought to myself.

* * *

It was this writer who brought the old woman to Lastimoso's office where she identified the six new police lieutenants in a line-up.

The normally calm and staid Lastimoso was so touched by Suyat's account of the incident that he punched some of the young men in the abdomen.

"You have brought shame not only to alma mater but to the entire PNP. You should be dismissed from the service," the PNP chief told the six who stood at attention.

* * *

The six were immediately dismissed upon Lastimoso's order.

Now they are back in the service. Two of them have even been promoted ahead of the others.

So the world may know, the six are Insp. Boots M. Aseo, Senior Insp. Joel Manuel Ana, Insp. Eleuterio M. Ricardo Jr., Insp. Florendo Soriano, Insp. Christopher Melchor and Senior Insp. Julius Cabahug.

* * *

The six were able to sneak back into the service apparently by pulling some strings. Their fellow academy graduates probably whispered into the ears of some high-ranking PNP officers to take them back in.

No wonder the PNP seems beyond reform. Scalawags who are kicked out easily get back in.

Those six scalawags will continue to commit abuses against civilians until they get kicked out again. And they will be accepted back, and so on and so forth.

The vicious cycle at the PNP never ends.

* * *

Why can't the PNPA produce graduates who are as decent as those of the Philippine Military Academy? At least for several years after graduating from the academy.

The PNPA is the police counterpart of the PMA.

Why are PMA graduates more disciplined than those of the PNPA? Why do PNPA graduates become abusive immediately after coming out of the academy?

The curriculum and discipline at the PNPA should be reviewed.

Don't treat us. . .

From page A20

The barangay official refused to name the family to protect them from the stigma attached to people suspected of carrying SARS.

The chairperson said they have received orders from the city health department to observe the family for two weeks, and to immediately report if any of the family members falls ill.

Members of the barangay public order and safety council visited the family the other day, Bilaos said.

The family members told the councilmen that they have not been ill since Catalon visited them, Bilaos said.

Catalon visited the family last April 8, four days after she arrived from Canada, Bilaos said. Catalon died on April 14.

Ding Mendoza, of the Quezon City Hall's Barangay Public Order and Safety office, said the family was showing no symptoms of SARS. Nonetheless, city and barangay health authorities have been monitoring the health of the family on a daily basis.

DOH officials have also been visiting and checking on the family every two hours. The six members of the family are now in quarantine.

The family lives in a big house, which is also home to three or four more families. But it was not known if the other families were also quarantined.

When the INQUIRER visited the barangay yesterday, a few residents were seen wearing protective masks. Barangay officials were also seen distributing masks and vitamin C capsules to families in the area.

Barangay Bagong Pag-asa is home to around 120,000 residents. It is located near the Philippine Science High School.

Health authorities said Catalon may have contacted up to 200 persons during her brief stay in the country.

According to the radio reports, Catalon allegedly was seen shopping at the nearby SM mall in North Edsa on the same day she visited the family in Pag-asa. It was also reported that she went to San Juan to pay someone a visit.

But a spokesperson for the local government in San Juan said she could not confirm the report.

Elvira Flores of the San Juan public information office said that they have been receiving numerous reports concerning Adela's alleged visit to the municipality but could not confirm any of it. *With a report from Dewey Joseph Yap and Charlene Tordesillas*

2 inmates die in Bilibid riot; convicted killer bolts

By Christian Esguerra

TWO inmates of the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa were killed while three others were injured last Thursday, the same day that a convicted killer bolted the jail.

Jose Manansala and Cesar Corpus, both members of the Genuine Ilocano Group, were stabbed to death during a free-for-all at the maximum security compound at about 7 p.m. on Thursday, said prisons director Ricardo Macala.

The riot erupted after Manansala ran amuck and tried to stab his fellow inmates with an improvised ice pick at the basketball court, he said.

Three inmates were rushed to the Muntinlupa Medical Center for minor injuries.

Macala said Manansala had been in and out of the NBP's detoxification and mental ward.

Earlier in the day, Genny Lovete, who was convicted of homicide, escaped. Lovete was supposed to complete his prison term on April 5 next year, Macala said. He said the inmate took advantage of the relaxed security on him because he was scheduled for release in less than a year.

Prior to his escape, Lovete had been transferred to the minor security compound where he was allowed to leave the NBP as part of the facility's community reintegration program, Macala said.

Vicencio out, Yambao in . . .

From page A20

to prevent officials from the Department of Interior and Local Government from serving the suspension order to the mayor.

In the following days, DILG officials tried to enter the building four times, but failed. They instead posted the suspension order at the gate of Vicencio's house in Araneta Village, Portrero, Malabon at about 5 p.m. on Thursday.

The suspension order on Vicencio was issued after opposition councilors charged the mayor for grave abuse of authority in connection with the purchase of an P88-million piece of property in Tanza, Navotas. The property was intended as a relocation site for some 2,800 squatters who will be displaced by the Philippine National Railways Corporation's rehabilitation program.

Vicencio has vowed to fight the 60-day suspension, saying that he would not step down from office.

This is the second time that Vicencio was suspended from office. Last year, he was suspended for his alleged involvement in the anomalous construction of the new P122-million city hall in Catmon, Malabon.

In a press conference of Yambao's camp held yesterday in Quezon City, lawyer Alan Paguia, legal counsel of the opposition said Vicencio is committing "deliberate actions to mislead the public" after he signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the North Railway Development Project inter-agency committee that gave the Housing and Urban Development and Coordinating Council authority over the Tanza property.

Paguia said the MOA was "illegal and void from the beginning since it has no certification of the accountant and auditor as stipulated under Sections 46,47,48 under the Administrative Code."

He also questioned the legal existence of the contract, saying that the "law does not permit any government agency from entering into a contract without funds for the entire project."

The Malabon government had already given P12.6 million from the city coffers as downpayment for the Tanza property. But the MOA has stipulated that the payment would be returned to the city.

Paguia also said that Vicencio was guilty of obstruction of justice through the barricades formed around City Hall.

"It only showed insubordination and refusal to follow due process on Mayor Vicencio's part," he said.

Yambao has appealed to the people who formed the barricades, saying that the law must be enforced and that his assumption to the post for 60 days is just a "matter of duty."

The barricades have stopped city hall transactions and have stalled traffic.

As of yesterday, Vicencio is still waiting for the Court of Appeals to issue a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to prevent the implementation of his suspension. *Anne Luisa Villarico*

really hanep!

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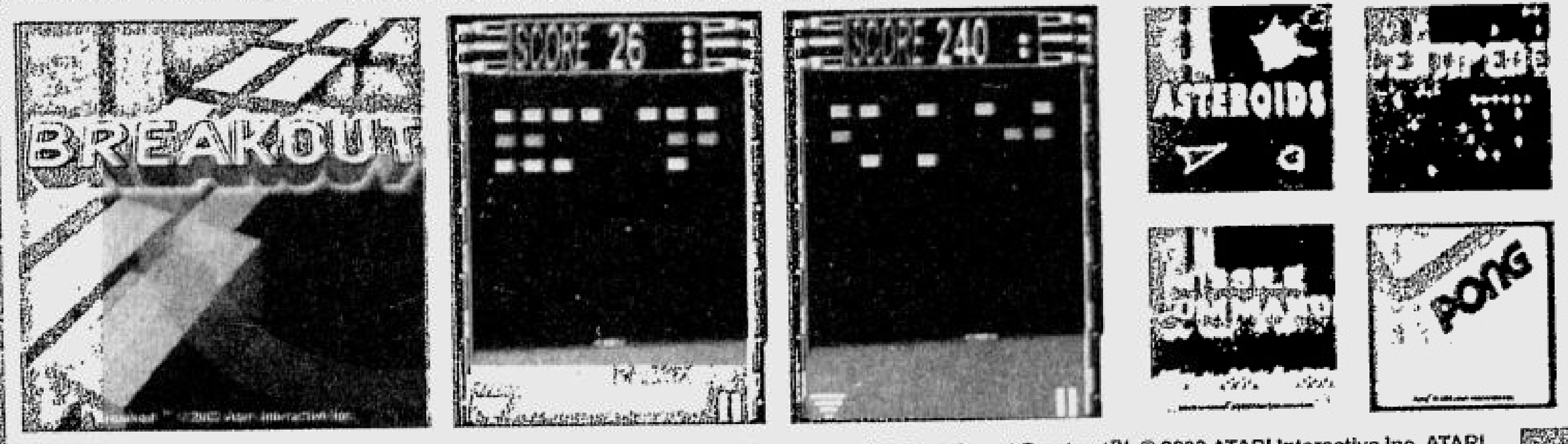

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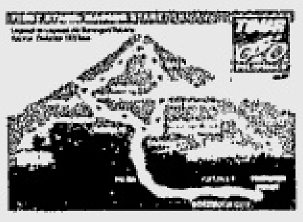
SMART

WHAT'S INSIDE

Garnett gets the job done /A26

Stoudemire is NBA rookie of the Year /A27

Tour Pilipinas bikathon on the road today/A25



Where funds are short, patience pays off /A24

Arroyo race moved to Santa Ana Park /A30

PNP wants Palaro moved

PSC chief takes 'wait-and-see' stance, still backs Lanao games

**By TJ Burgonio
and Marc Anthony Reyes**

THE PHILIPPINE National Police yesterday proposed the staging of the Palarong Pambansa outside of Lanao del Norte following the outbreak of clashes between government troops and secessionist rebels there.

The clashes, which erupted after Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels attacked Kolambugan and Maigo towns in the province on Thursday morning, left at least 16 people dead and several others wounded.

Maigo and Kolambugan are the two towns nearest the capital town of Tubod, the venue of the national games set May 4 to 11.

"Other venues would be a better option; it would be easier to secure, for example, Cebu or Iloilo. We are ready (to provide security) just tell us where is the venue," Director Ricardo de Leon, PNP director for police community relations, told reporters.

He said that the national police, in coordination with the military, would provide "maximum security" for the 5,000 athletes and officials.

BUHAIN

"The PNP has been preparing for the security requirements, but we still leave it to the Philippine Sports Commission and the participants of the different regions to check and consult with the local organizers (on the final venue)," De Leon said.

He said the final decision "will emanate from the officials of the Palarong Pambansa and the Philipine Sports Commission.

Meanwhile, PSC chair Eric Buhain yesterday said the Palaro will definitely push through this year but there's nothing definite yet as to the date and venue.

Buhain made the statement after conferring with the Department of Education regional directors.

Buhain said they have to "wait and see" following the spate of violence that erupted in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, site of this year's Games.

"Secretary (Edilberto) de Jesus asked me if the PSC is ready to hold the Palaro," said Buhain. "I told him we are ready anytime of the year."

But Buhain was quick to point out that there are still no negotiations regarding possible replacement venue "out of respect to the efforts of Lanao del Norte officials to bring the Palaro in their province."

"All these reports that Iloilo and Bacolod are eyeing to host the Palaro in Lanao's place are not true. They have a heart for Lanao del Norte which had lost the hosting for three years already," Buhain said.

The PSC chief added he was coordinating with Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo, who is closely monitoring the situation in the province where military and police operations were intensified.

"We at the PSC have a complete trust in the Armed Forces as well as the Philippine National Police," said Buhain. "Once we get the whole picture of the peace and order situation of the province, I will go back to Secretary De Jesus and present it to the regional directors."

By Tuesday, Buhain added, they should be ready to come up with recommendation to President Arroyo whether Lanao del Norte would be capable of hosting the Games.

The MILF, after lauching two attacks on Thursday, threatened to wreck the long preparation for the Palaro.

As this developed, it was reported that the Tawi Tawi delegation has already arrived at the Mindanao Civic Center where they will be billeted during the Games.

Buhain said Dimaporo and her husband, Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, are "keeping an open mind" about the situation.

"I'm talking to them every day and they are very open-minded about it," said Buhain. "The key here is whatever the military and the police will tell us."

SARS scare keeps RP out of Vietnam meet

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE SARS scare yesterday forced the Philippine Olympic Committee to absent itself from the vital Southeast Asian Games Federation meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam.

POC president Celso Dayrit, who said they were not sending any representative, said the Philippines and Thailand had written the SEAG Federation to beg off from the meeting.

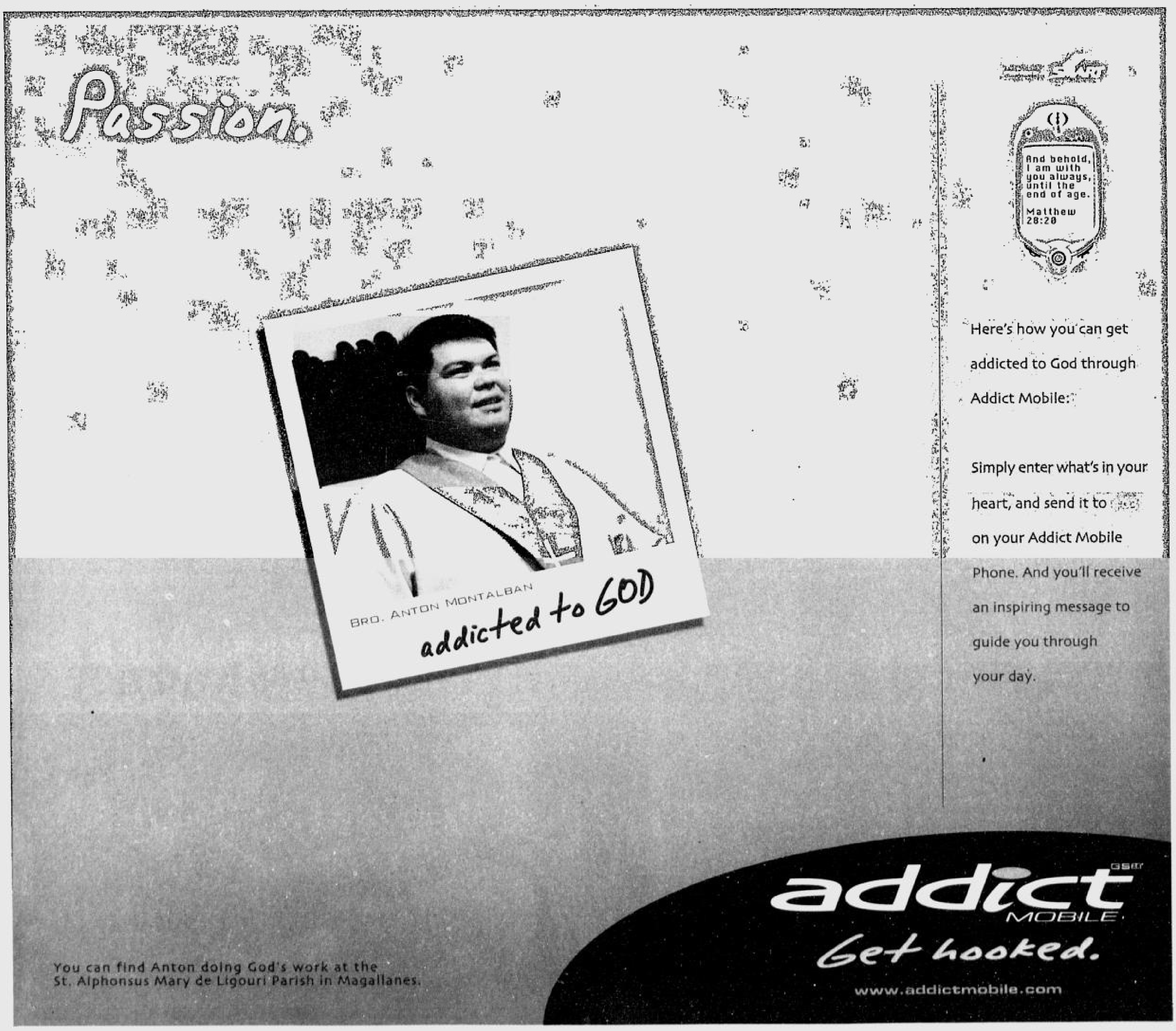
The confab was supposed to tackle,

among other things, the SARS effect on the SEA Games slated in Vietnam in December.

Dayrit added that most National Olympic Committee presidents have also chosen to skip the meeting and instead sent representatives because Vietnam was among the countries hit by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome epidemic.

Dayrit, however, vowed to call up the federation and ask whatever was taken up during the meeting, including the possible postponement of the Games due to the SARS scare.

DAYRIT



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Matthew 28:20

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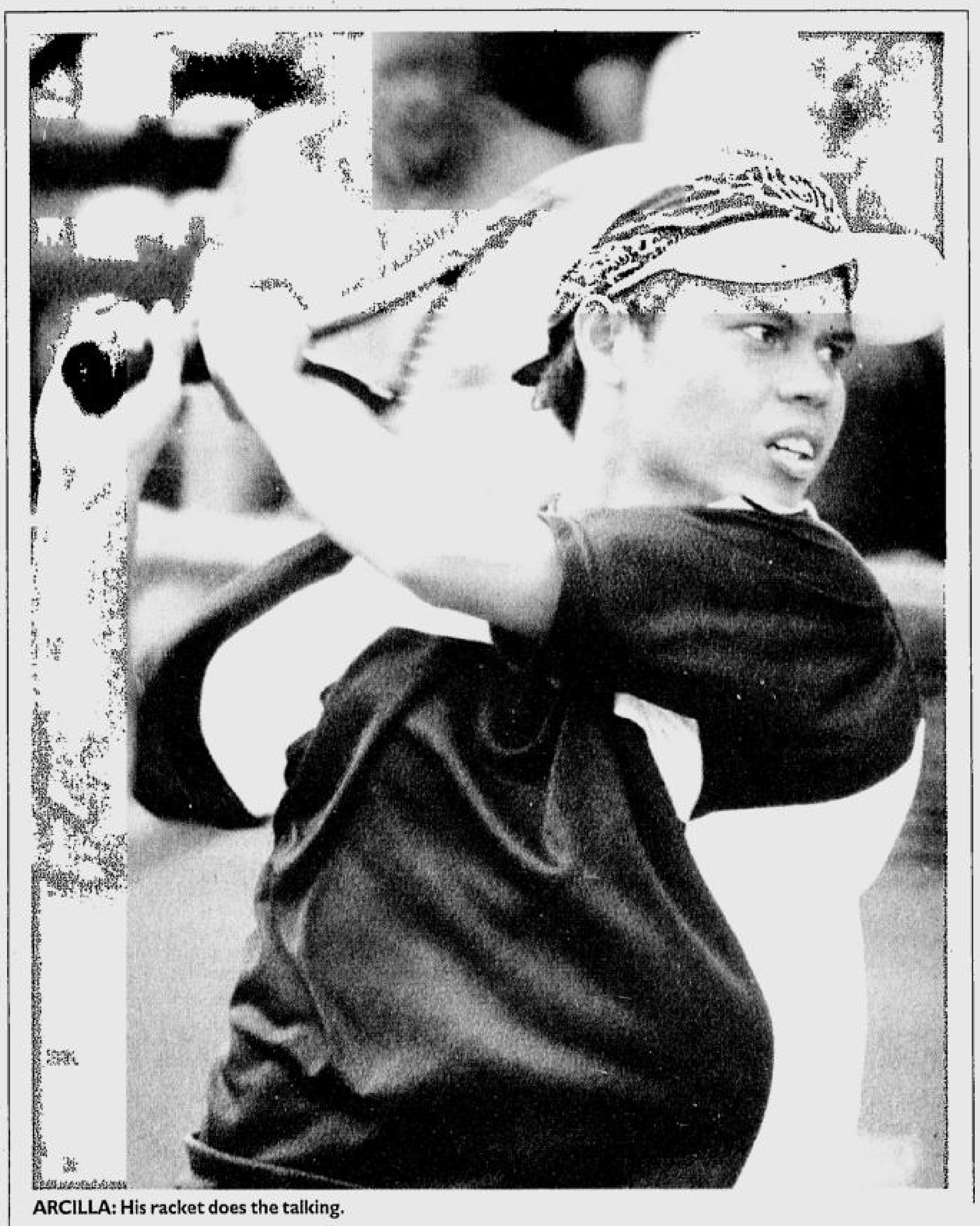


ARCILLA: His racket does the talking.

JOHNNY ARCILLA

Where funds are short, patience pays off

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JOHNNY Arcilla still remembers the stinging pain in his wrist while trying to return Alexey Kedriouk's booming serves: "It's like an electric shock that passes through my racket and goes all the way to my arm."

After all, Kedriouk is 6-foot-2 and seven inches taller than the country's erstwhile top player. But his power wasn't enough to overwhelm Arcilla in the Philippines-Kazakhstan Davis Cup tie recently.

"I remained patient all the way, tried to slow him down and make him lose his cool," said Arcilla, who played the key role as the Filipinos subdued the Kazakhs, 3-2, and avoided landing in the cellar of the East Asia group.

Destroying the equilibrium of people around him is an art Arcilla has mastered through the years without really trying.

When he was a high school freshman at San Beda College, his teachers gave up on him and threatened to kick him out of school for doing, well, nothing.

"He was very shy even as a kid and he doesn't talk unless you ask him," said his long-time mentor Jovy Mamawal. "His teachers thought he's a slow learner because he seems to live inside a shell."

Mamawal said they even hired a communications coach to help the then 12-year-old Arcilla acquire social graces.

Arcilla learned tennis from his father, a Butuan General Hospital utility, who became his coach and playing partner.

"I don't have a coach, so when there is no tournament, I play with my father," said the 22-year-old Arcilla.

He was the country's top player for two and a half years before he relinquished the honor to childhood buddy Joseph Victorino late last year. Victorino achieved the No. 1 ranking by shocking Arcilla in the semis on his way to the season-ending PCA Open title.

But Arcilla said he doesn't feel bad about it. "He (Victorino) deserved it because he worked hard for it," said Arcilla.

Arcilla and Victorino go a long way back. Victorino's father, Vic, brought Arcilla to Manila from Cebu in 1992 so his then 7-year-old son would have a playing partner.

Arcilla stayed at the Victorino household in Talayan, Quezon City and Vic enrolled him at a public school where he finished his elementary education.

The following year, Arcilla reached the finals of the Kuala Lumpur Milo Perlis international juniors tournament which is traditionally ruled by the Koreans.

"As of the last count, I have won more than 100 local titles and about five international championships," said Arcilla.

The discrepancy in the number of his local and international victories speaks a lot of the state of Philippine tennis.

"I hardly had any sponsor to support my campaign abroad," said Arcilla, "That is what I lack right now."

Philippine Tennis Association president Buddy Andrada blamed the lack of corporate support for tennis due to the country's economy.

. "This is a sad trend in tennis right now. If you have a healthy economy you have more sponsors coming in as in the case of Thailand, which has produced (Asian tennis sensation) Srichapan Paradorn," said Andrada.

"Unfortunately, we don't have that kind of economy here so sponsors are rare," Andrada continued. "The problem is you only improve if you meet foreign players. Right now, we are trying very hard to bring international players here by hosting international events. Hopefully we can convince corporations to support us in the future."

In the meantime, Arcilla and Philippine tennis will have to make good use of their foremost virtue: Patience.

Fred Couples back to old form, and getting better

HUMBLE, Texas—Fred Couples continued the quest for his first PGA Tour victory in five years with a 7-under-par 65 that gave him a one-stroke lead Thursday over Stuart Appleby in the rain-interrupted opening round of the Houston Open.

Couples, who played college golf at the University of Houston before turning pro in 1980, had eight birdies–including five while shooting a 30 on the back nine.

"I had a great day," he said. "I hit a lot of very good shots and made a lot of putts. I played well."

Play was suspended for 3½ hours early in the day and didn't resume until shortly after noon as a line of thunderstorms passed through. That meant many players didn't tee off until late afternoon, and 72 couldn't finish their rounds as darkness fell.

Players set to resume their opening rounds Friday included Carl Paulson, a non-winner on tour who was 6-under after 16 holes, and Tom Pernice, at 6-under through 15. Briny Baird, another non-winner, was 5-under through 11 holes.

Appleby's round included an eagle on the par-5 15th hole. His last win came at this event in 1999, when it was played at the TPC at The Woodlands. This year, the tournament was moved to the new, sprawling 7,508-yard Redstone Golf Club layout designed by Peter Jacobsen.

Jacobsen, admitting his knowledge of the course helped him, was in group of four golfers–including defending champion Vijay Singh–at 67.

Eight players finished at 68 and another large group, including Ernie Els and John Daly, was at 69.

Winless since 1998

Couples is trying to regain the form that made him one of the world's top golfers in the 1990s. He hasn't won since a pair of victories in 1998.

"I haven't been in any kind of contention for three or four years," he acknowledged. "So for anyone who tells you it's like riding a bike, it's not like riding a bike."

But he's challenged himself to make improvements in his game, and that's led to top-10 finishes in two of his last four outings.

"It's been getting better," Couples said. "Every time I get in this position I need to work on that."

He wants to play himself into the top 10 and hopes to be in position to make a run for the title in the final two rounds.

Appleby began the year with a sixth-place finish at the tour opener in Hawaii, but his game has faltered since.

COUPLES: A great day. GETTY IMAGES

"It's been definitely a drought in the last few months," he said. "I am certainly not playing at the level that I want to play and know I can play at."

Jacobsen, 10th last week at the MCI Heritage while shooting four rounds under 70, was pleased with his 67.

Feeling great

"If I had known this is how it goes, I would have got involved in golf course design long ago," he said with a laugh. "It felt great."

His lone bogey was on the 18th hole, where his drive missed the fairway and stopped in some mulch around a tree he specifically planted while designing the course.

"What happened to me is exactly what we wanted to happen," he said. "It's the last hole. If you come in here with a one-stroke lead or you need a birdie you better hit a good drive. I paid the price."

The estimated $5.2 million raised for Houston-area charities with this week's Shell-sponsored tournament will push the cumulative total for all PGA Tour charitable contributions to $750 million since the first $10,000 donation from a Palm Beach, Florida tournament in 1938. Total PGA Tour contributions reached $100 million in 1987, passed $500 million in 2000 and could top $800 million by the end of this year. *AP*

Captain keeps Capriati out of US Fed Cup team

LOWELL, Massachusetts-- US Fed Cup captain Billie Jean King has brought out big guns Serena and Venus Williams for this weekend's tie against the Czech Republic to ensure her team do not suffer another first-round upset.

Last year, the US was shocked at home in Charlotte, North Carolina, by a Barbara Schwartz-led Austrian team. In that tie, King kicked her top player, Jennifer Capriati, off the team, which resulted in the forfeit of their first match.

After Schwartz upset Monica Seles, King had to substitute Meghann Shaughnessy in the third match and Schwartz defeated Shaughnessy 9-7 in the third set, clinching the tie for Austria over a nation that has won the Fed Cup a record 17 times.

"We're very pumped up this year," King told Reuters. "After what happened last year, we are very determined to bring the Fed Cup back home. After Charlotte, the players really bonded together in their goals and commitments." After winning the 2000 Fed Cup in Las Vegas over Spain, the US opted out of playing the 2001 final in Madrid due to post Sept. 11 security concerns. Belgium won the title.

King expected to raise the Fed Cup again last year until chaos reigned in Charlotte and Slovakia ended up winning the title.

"I will always be sad about it," King said. "But you can either see it as a disaster or a new opportunity.

"It's a motivational factor for all of us. Every single player has come up to me and said: 'We've got to bring back the Cup, this is ridiculous and let's just make it happen'."

With some of the top-ranked players in the world such as Serena (1st), Venus (3rd) Shaughnessy (19th) and Alexandra Stevenson (26th), the US are heavily favoured over a young Czech team headed by Daja Bedanova (44th), Iveta Benesova (71st), Klara Koukalova (73rd) Eva Birnerova (163rd).

"We have the best players in the world and we expect to win, but we can't afford to look ahead," said King, who has led her team to three titles in the last eight years.

Sweet revenge for Agassi in US clay court tourney

HOUSTON—Top-seeded Andre Agassi needed less than an hour for a second straight match, and avenged an upset two years ago by Irakli Labadze to advance Thursday to the US Men's Clay Court Championships quarterfinals.

Agassi beat the player from the Republic of Georgia 6-0, 6-2. The victory extended his match record to 20-1 this season, allowing him to join four other ATP players with 20 match victories in 2003.

Waiting for Agassi will either be fellow American Todd Martin or Brazilian Ricardo Mello, who were playing late Thursday. American Mardy Fish won through by beating Luis Horna of Peru 6-2, 6-4.

Agassi took only 47 minutes to beat Zeljko Krajan of Croatia in his first-round match. He finished Labadze in 52 minutes when he served for the match in the eighth game of the second set.

[illegible]

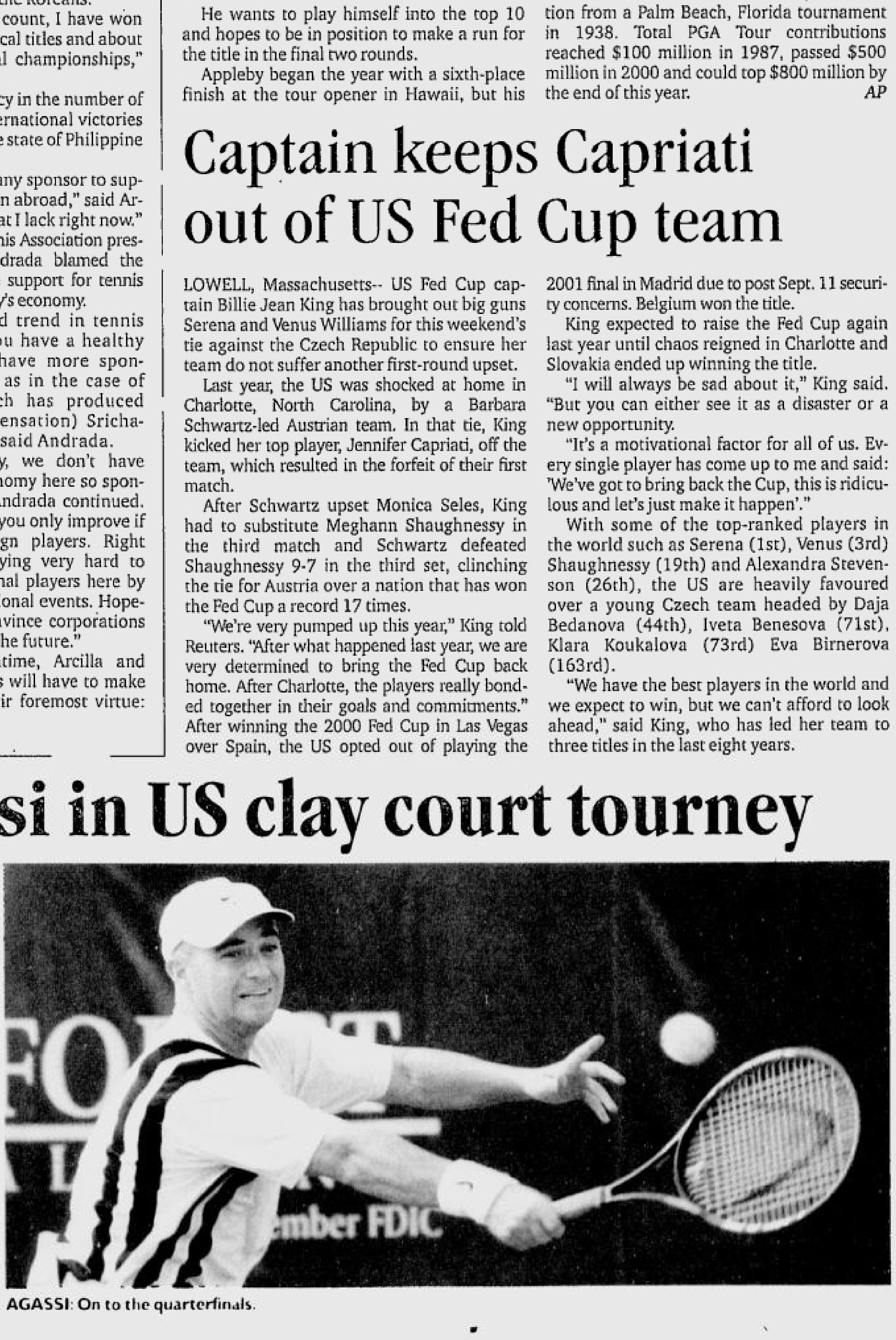
game but missed the first match point on a forehand net error. Labadze, ranked 92nd in the world, then hit a backhand behind the baseline to end the match.

"Labadze is a very flashy player who can come up with some big shots, but he doesn't have much interest in extending the points," Agassi said. "I figured the points would be shorter, but I was fortunate that everything seemed to roll my way early.

"He was going to take his chances and he was going to let it fly. You just hope when he gets that look he's under more pressure than he wants to be."

Agassi brought the match under control quickly with a first set that lasted 19 minutes. He'd lost to Labadze on hardcourt in Shanghai.

"Nothing worked today," Labadze said. "I didn't play so well. He didn't have to do anything to win. I guess I was pretty nervous. Actually, before the match, I was feeling like it [illegible]



AGASSI: On to the quarterfinals.

Tour Pilipinas bikathon on the road today

By June Navarro

LEGASPI CITY--Multi-stage cycling returns as the country's top summer sports spectacle when the Tour Pilipinas 2003 gets going here today.

With majestic Mount Mayon serving as backdrop, the field of 84 riders spread out in 12 teams tackles the first of 15 laps in the 18-day schedule this morning with organizers predicting an exciting race.

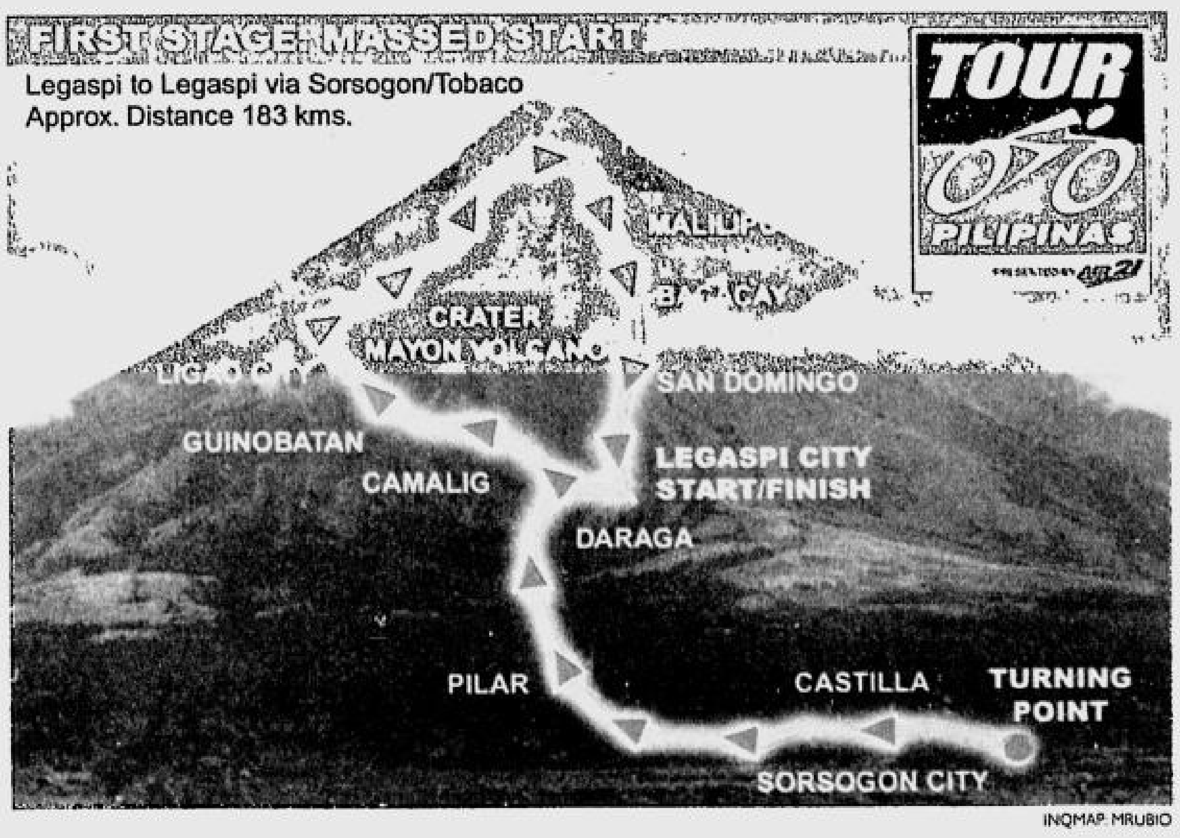
The opening lap is a massed start event covering 183 kms of good roads on an out-and-back course that will take the riders to Sorsogon and then to Tabaco City before heading back to Legaspi.

With a top team prize of P1 million and a P200,000 purse for the individual champion, organizers look forward to a memorable bikathon like the last one held in 1998 which Warren Davadilla won.

Davadilla and former two-time champions Carlo Guieb and Renato Dolosa remain prohibitive favorites, but a host of eager, hungry and talented youngsters led by Santi Banachea seem capable of pulling through.

The 25-year-old Barnachea ruled last year's Express Tour of Calabarzon and is eager to prove his worth in a longer and tougher race.

"Siyempre masarap mag-champion. Isa pa gusto ko ring patunayan na hindi lang ako pang four days, said Barnachea, the Tour's 1997 Rookie of the Year, who will skipper the Bowling Gold team.


FIRST STAGE: MASSED START
Legaspi to Legaspi via Sorsogon/Tobaco
Approx. Distance 183 kms.
TOUR PILIPINAS
CRATER
MAYON VOLCANO
SAN DOMINGO
GUINOBATAN
CAMALIG
LEGASPI CITY START/FINISH
DARAGA
PILAR
CASTILLA
TURNING POINT
SORSOGON CITY

INQMAP: MRUBIO

DAVADILLA: Tour favorite.

The Tour of Calabarzon organized by Airfreight 2100 served as some sort of a teaser and the success of the event convinced Airfreight chairman Bert Lina to go for the full-time revival this year of what he called "one of the most awaited sporting events in our country."

Guieb, known as the King of the Mountains during his prime when he won back-to-back Tour titles (1993-94), spearheads the EcoSavers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, one of six government teams entered in the 2,460-kilometer race.

Although slowed down by age, the 35-year-old Guieb said experience would be his main weapon. "Sa dami ng magagaling dito sa Tour, mahirap ang mag-champion ulit. Tignan na lang natin siguro sa karera," he said.

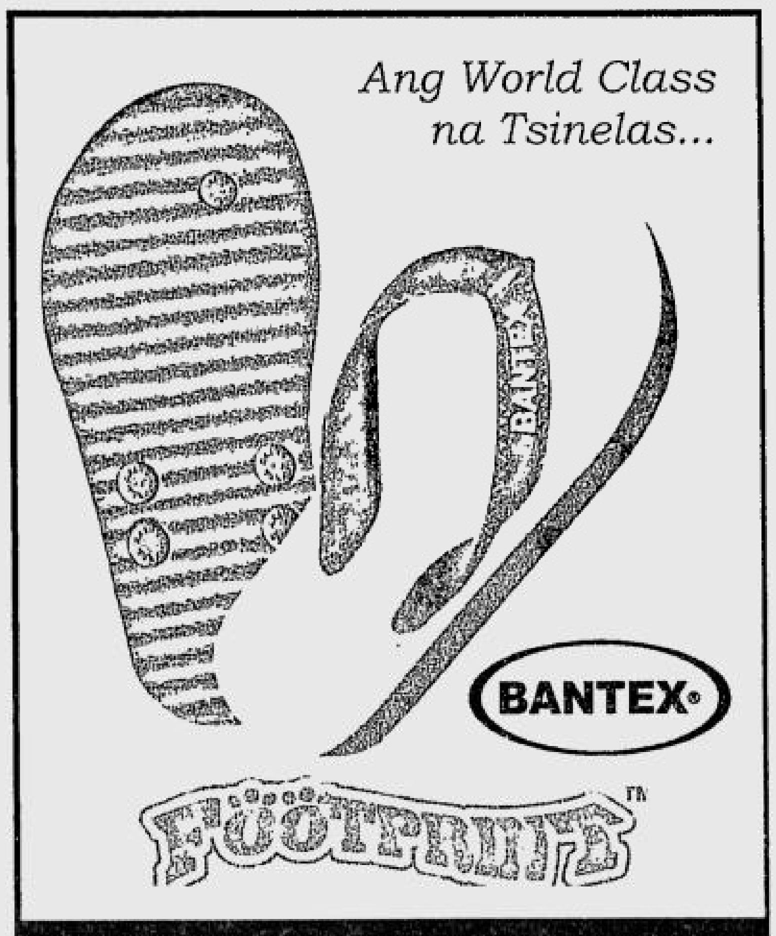
Dolosa, who won the Tour in 1992 and 1995 and leader of Gilbey's Island Punch, remains upbeat of his chances,saying he still has what it takes to rise to the occasion.

The Tour's oldest citizens are also back with 1986 champion Ronaldo Pagnanawon and 1991 titleholder Bernardo Llantada sharing the leadership chores for Bowling Gold and Drug-Busters, respectively.

The other rated entries are national riders Lloyd Reynante (Pagcor Sports), Bernard Luzon (DILG's Patrol 117), Enrique Domingo (DOTC's Postmen), Merculio Ramos and Arnel Quirimit (Tanduay), Ryan Taguilig(Pagcor Sports), and Albert Primero (PLDT-NDD).

Other teams in this event presented by Airfreight 2100 and backed by Accel, Longines, BPI-MS, Lipovitan, Philtranco, Selletalia and Vittoria are the Felix Celeste-led VAT Riders of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Samsung headed by Nicanor Ramos Jr.

"Maraming malalakas. Pero pipilitin ko pa rin manalo," said Davadilla, the Intel team captain, who picked Reynante, Quirimit, Tanguilig and Merculio as his toughest rivals.



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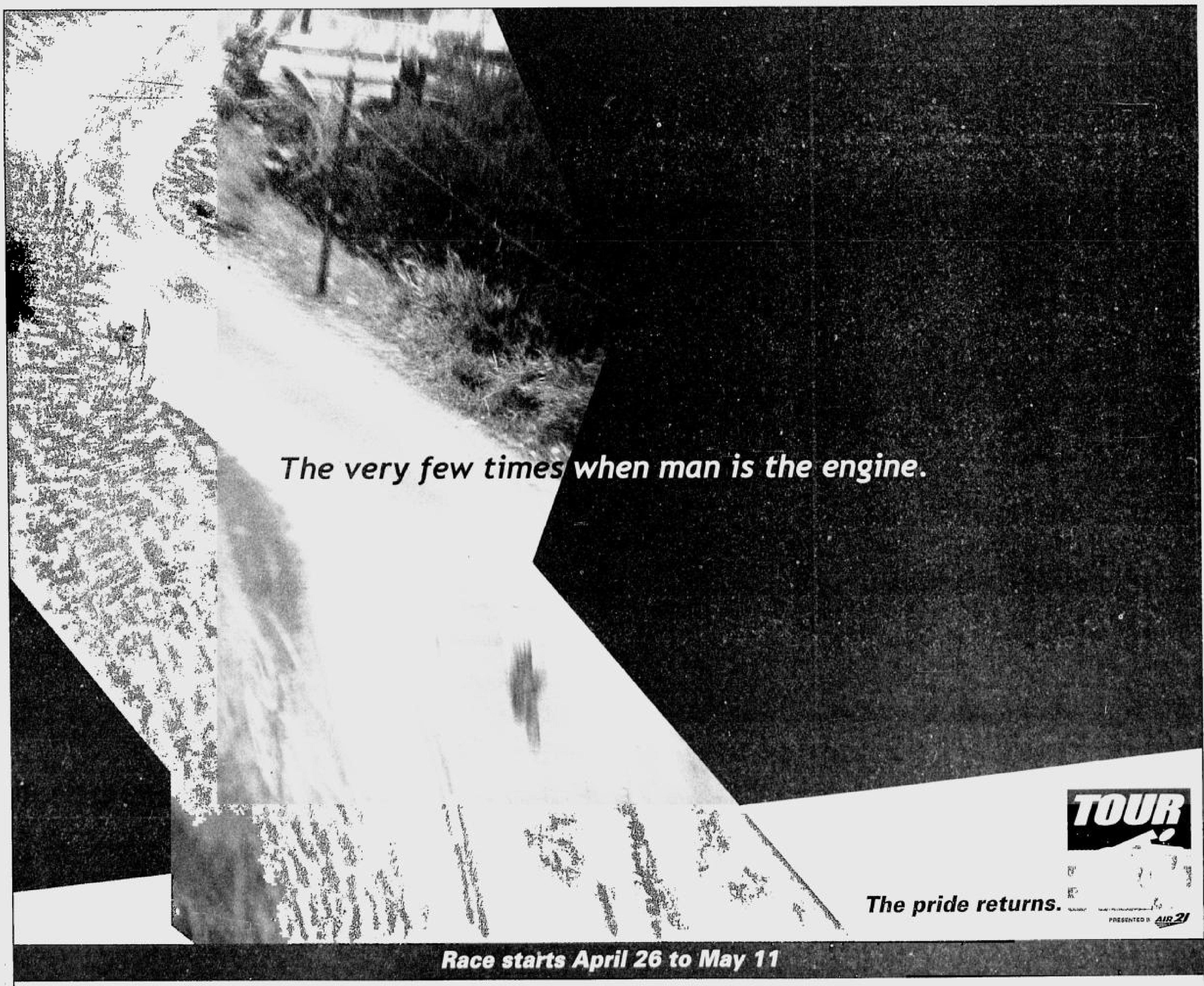

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Garnett gets the job done

Wolves push Lakers against the ropes with 2-1 series lead

LOS ANGELES--Kevin Garnett got the job done early then sat back and watched his supporting crew settle it in overtime.

The league's MVP candidate Garnett went from team leader to cheerleader as Minnesota beat the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers 114-110 on Thursday to take a 2-1 lead in their first round National Basketball Association playoff series.

Garnett had 33 points and 14 rebounds before fouling out 12 seconds into the overtime.

Garnett switched roles on the bench, turning into the Timberwolves' biggest fan. An animated Garnett spent the overtime on his hands and knees screaming at calls he didn't like and cheering key Minnesota baskets.

Given a choice he would have rather been on the floor.

"It was miserable," said Garnett. "That is the first time since my rookie season I fouled out.

"I couldn't help my team so the only other thing I could do was try and channel my energy and cheer and motivate to get my teammates over the edge." In other NBA playoff games on Thursday, New Jersey edged Milwaukee 103-101 and Boston cruised to a 101-83 victory over Indiana.

The Timberwolves victory returned home-court advantage to them in the Western Conference best-of-seven series. Game 4 is Sunday in Los Angeles.

"I think we handled them beautifully," said Garnett. "With the Lakers you have got to play with just as much confidence as they do. They have more experience (playoffs) than we do and they have been here before." Minnesota faced a stiff test in trying to regain home-court, upending the Lakers at Staples Center, where Los Angeles had won 15 straight games dating back to February 18.

"I have never seen him like that," said Minnesota's Joe Smith of Garnett. "He was getting everybody hyped." The three-time defending champion Lakers had also won 14 straight opening-round games since 1996.

The Timberwolves led 52-46 at the half and by as much as nine points at one stage in the first half.

Troy Hudson scored 27 points and Marc Jackson had 12 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Shaquille O'Neal had 28 points and 17 rebounds and Kobe Bryant scored 30 points for the Lakers.

The Timberwolves trounced the Lakers 119-91 on Tuesday, handing Los Angeles their worst loss in post-season in three years.

Things got a little better for the Lakers on Thursday but they fell behind early and spent the entire game trying to catch up before Bryant forced the overtime.

"We are upset we lost the game," said Bryant who is nursing a sore right shoulder that injured when he missed a dunk in Game 2.

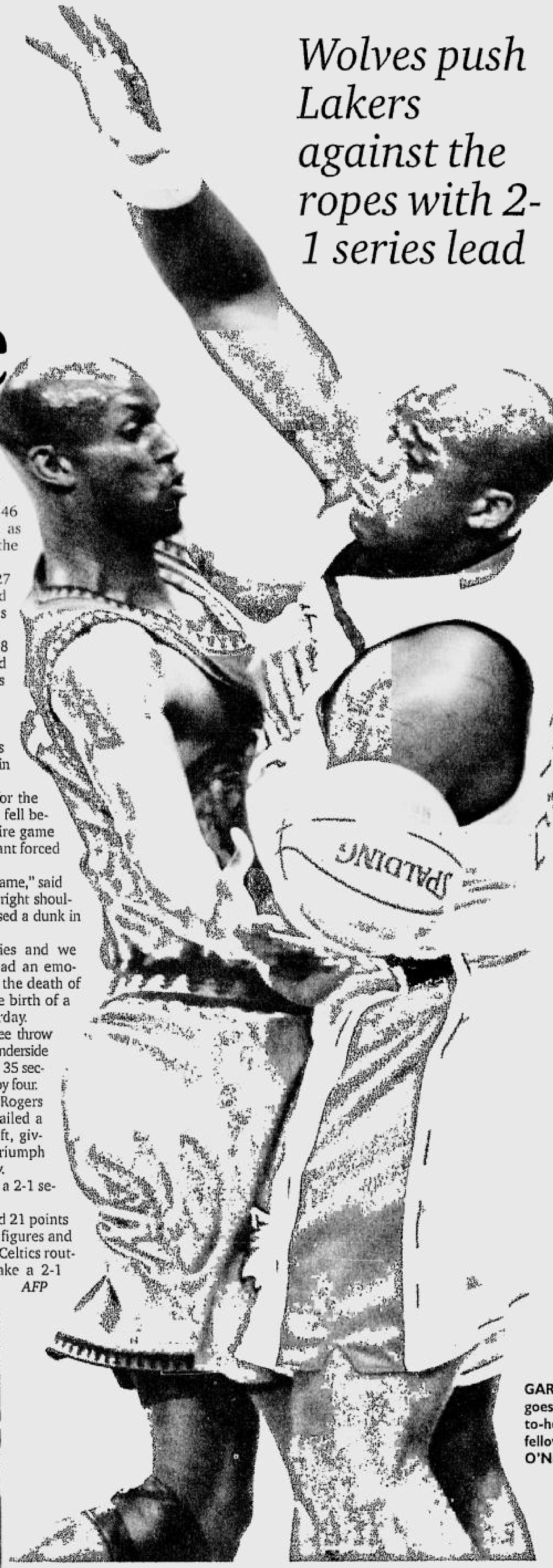
"We had our opportunities and we didn't win it." O'Neal has had an emotional week, beginning with the death of his grandfather and then the birth of a baby boy (Shaquir) last Saturday.

He shot poorly from the free throw line on Thursday hitting the underside of the rim on one attempt with 35 seconds left and the Lakers down by four.

New Jersey's Rodney Rogers gathered a deflection and nailed a jumper with two seconds left, giving the Nets a 103-101 triumph over Milwaukee on Thursday.

The victory gives the Nets a 2-1 series lead.

Boston's Paul Pierce scored 21 points to lead six players in double figures and grabbed 12 rebounds as the Celtics routed the Pacers 101-83 to take a 2-1 lead. *AFP*



GARNETT goes head-to-head with fellow giant O'Neal. AP

AT A GLANCE
NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

EASTERN CONFERENCE

(1) Detroit vs. (8) Orlando

Magic 1, Pistons 1
Game 1: Orlando 99, Detroit 94
Game 2: Detroit 89, Orlando 77
Game 3 at Orlando (April 26)

(2) New Jersey vs (7) Milwaukee

Nets 2, Bucks 1
Game 1: New Jersey 109, Milwaukee 96
Game 2: Milwaukee 88, New Jersey 85
Game 3: New Jersey 103, Milwaukee 101
Game 4 at Milwaukee (April 27)

(3) Indiana vs (6) Boston

Pacers 1, Celtics 2
Game 1: Boston 103, Indiana 100
Game 2: Indiana 89, Boston 77
Game 3: Boston 101, Indiana 83
Game 4 at Boston (April 28)

(4) Philadelphia vs (8) N. Orleans

Sixers 2, Hornets 0,
Game 1: Philadelphia 98, New Orleans 90
Game 2: Philadelphia 90, New Orleans 85
Game 3 at Philadelphia (April 27)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

(1) San Antonio vs (8) Phoenix

Spurs 1, Suns 1
Game 1 Phoenix 96, San Antonio 95 (OT)
Game 2: San Antonio 84, Phoenix 76
Game 3 at Phoenix (April 26)

(2) Sacramento vs (7) Utah

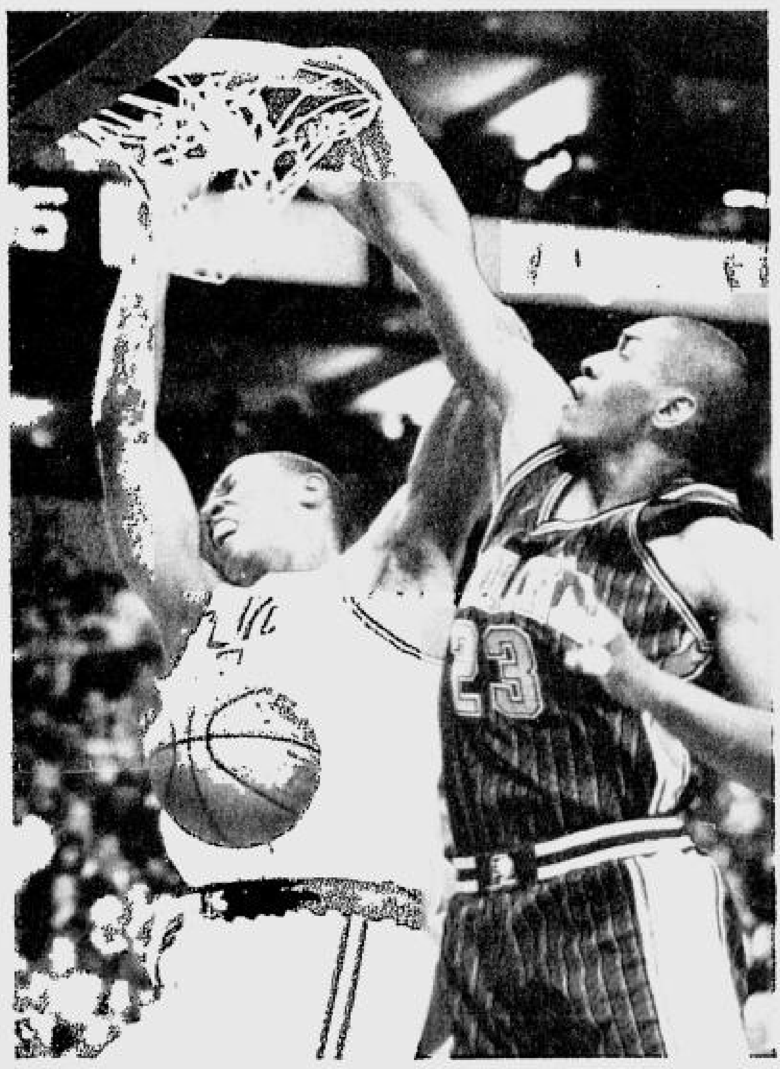
Kings 2, Jazz 0
Game 1: Sacramento 96, Utah 90
Game 2: Sacramento 108, Utah 95
Game 3 at Utah (April 27)

(3) Dallas vs (6) Portland

Mavs 2, Blazers 0
Game 1: Dallas 96, Portland 86
Game 2: Dallas 103, Portland 99
Game 3 at Dallas (April 26)

(4) Minnesota vs. (5) LA Lakers

Wolves 2, Lakers 1
Game 1: LA Lakers 117, Minnesota 98
Game 2: Minnesota 119, LA Lakers 91
Game 3: Minnesota 114, LA Lakers 110
Game 4 at Los Angeles (April 28)



BOSTON'S Tony Battie (left) dunks off Indiana's Ron Artest. The Celtics won, 101-83. AP

Iverson had argument with man who shot his pal

PHILADELPHIA—NBA star Allen Iverson exchanged angry words with a man accused of shooting his friend in the leg last week, witnesses told police.

Police identified the suspect as Carlos Perez, 24, of Philadelphia. Perez remains at large and faces aggravated assault charges in the April 14 shooting of Larry Robinson, 46, of Smithfield, Virginia.

Robinson drove himself to the hospital in Iverson's car after he was shot in the leg about 2:30 a.m. outside a nightclub. He was treated and released.

Witnesses told police that Iverson was in a group of men who got into an argument with Perez, possibly over basketball, Capt. Thomas Quinn said Thursday. Some witnesses said Iverson participated in the argument.

"We believe this was a spontaneous event," Quinn said.

Quinn also said police considered Iverson a target because the suspect fired on his group.

"We believe he's part of the target. Is he specifically the target? We don't know for sure," Quinn said.

Police are talking with Perez's lawyer about his surrender, Quinn said. Police searched an apartment where Perez was staying Thursday morning but didn't find him there.

Malone expects kid in draft

SALT LAKE CITY--NBA star Karl Malone will have a nice diversion Friday from questions about his future and his Utah team's 2-0 playoffs deficit to Sacramento.

Malone expects his daughter, Cheryl Ford, to be selected in the WNBA draft.

"I've got a list of the teams, so I've got a good feeling of where she's going to go. I don't want to tell her though," Malone said.

"The whole way to practice this morning, she wouldn't get off the phone unless I told her. I told her I'm sworn to secrecy right now."

Like Malone was nearly two decades ago, Ford is a Louisiana Tech University star about to embark on a professional career. The 6-foot-3 (1.91-meter) center averaged 15.7 points and 12.9 rebounds as a senior this season. AP

Syracuse freshman going to the pros

SYRACUSE, New York—Syracuse freshman Carmelo Anthony, who led the Orangemen to their first national championship, will make himself eligible for the NBA draft.

Anthony said Thursday he will forgo his final three years at Syracuse to play in the NBA.

Anthony, who turns 19 in May, led the Orangemen in scoring, averaging 22 points, and broke Lawrence Moten's freshman scoring record for points and Derrick Coleman's freshman rebounding mark.

points and pulled down 14 rebounds in Syracuse's victory over Texas in the national semifinals in New Orleans earlier this month. He scored 20 points as Syracuse beat Kansas in the title game and was named Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four just the third freshman to earn that honor.

"I'm here in front of you today to announce that I will not be coming back next year," Anthony said at a news conference. "I will be moving on, moving on to the pros."

after talking with his mother and to coach Jim Boeheim.

"It was a tough decision for me to make," said Anthony, who began crying as he spoke.

Boeheim agreed with Anthony's decision and said his star player is ready for the next level.

"This is a very happy day for Syracuse basketball, and a sad one, too," Boeheim said. "The guy sitting here has done more for Syracuse basketball than any player we've ever recruited or that's ever played here. To

onship as a freshman is truly a historic moment in college basketball. I'm very thankful that he was here with us."

The NBA draft is scheduled for June 26. The NBA's deadline for underclassmen to make themselves eligible for the draft is May 12. Anthony is expected to be a lottery pick. The draft lottery will held May 22.

Anthony is the first Syracuse underclassman to declare early for the NBA since Billy Owens opted not to return

1991

ANTHONY

Stoudemire is NBA rookie of the year

PHOENIX—Amare Stoudemire won the NBA Rookie of the Year award Thursday, the first player to do so after coming to the league directly from high school.

Several players and coach Frank Johnson acknowledged that Stoudemire had won the award after the team practiced Thursday, and a news conference for the official announcement was scheduled for later in the day.

The Phoenix Suns power forward — quick, powerful and barely out of his teens — beat out Houston Rockets center Yao Ming, last year's No. 1 draft pick.

Stoudemire is the third Suns player to win the award, but the first since Walter Davis in 1978. Phoenix's Alvan Adams was rookie of the year in 1976.

Stoudemire, who turned 20 two weeks into the season, averaged 13.5 points and 8.8 rebounds, better rookie statistics than any player to turn professional out of high school since Moses Malone.

Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett and Tracy McGrady all had less impact in their rookie sead far beyond his years, Stoudemire showed no sign of being intimidated by his big, rough, older opponents. His favorite player in high school was Shaquille O'Neal. *AP*

STOUDEMIRE holds the NBA Rookie of the Year award. AP

Viva Water sinks ICTSI

VIVA Mineral Water continued its climb in the Sunkist-PBL 2003 Unity Cup with a come-from-behind 81-73 victory over ICTSI last night at the New Cebu City Coliseum.

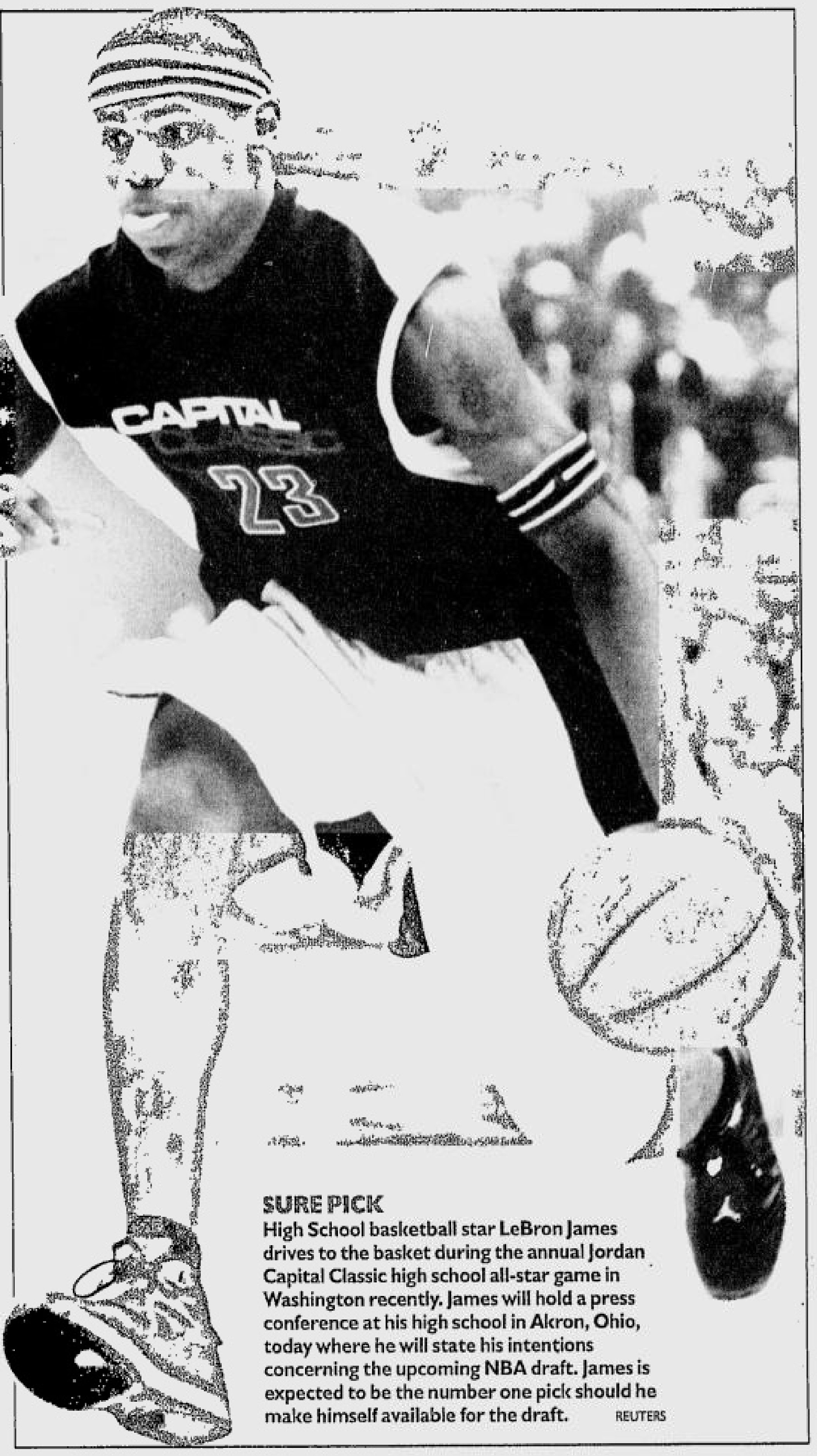
Spitfire Warren Ybanez keyed Viva's fifth straight win after dropping its first three games by drilling in two triples going to the last four minutes.

The count was tied at 69 with 4 minutes and 56 seconds left before Viva Water, being mentored by Koy Banal, got the momentum when ICTSI's Pocholo Villanueva committed an offensive foul.

Sunny Margate, formerly of the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association, then shoved Viva, which trailed by as many as 19 points in the first half, ahead with a lay-up before the 5-foot-7 Ybanez struck from afar to hand ICTSI its fifth loss in eight games.

"We played so tired during the first half so I reminded the boys that this is a crucial game for us and they responded," said Banal.

The PBL will fly over to Bacolod City tomorrow with Viva Water meeting Nutri-licious at the West Negros College Gym at 2 p.m. *Roy Luarca*



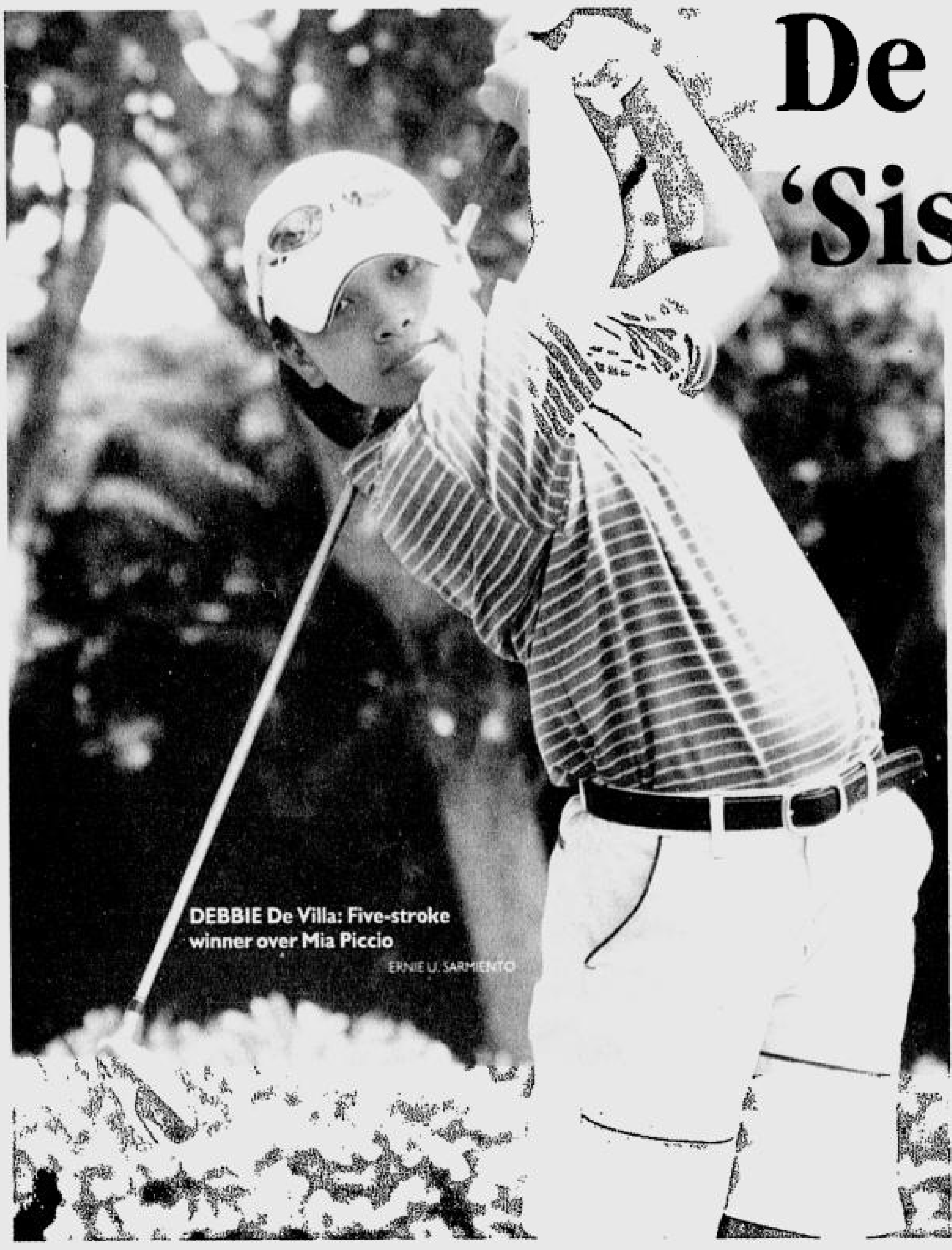
SURE PICK
High School basketball star LeBron James drives to the basket during the annual Jordan Capital Classic high school all-star game in Washington recently. James will hold a press conference at his high school in Akron, Ohio, today where he will state his intentions concerning the upcoming NBA draft. James is expected to be the number one pick should he make himself available for the draft. REUTERS

INQUIRER
Pintco wants Climaco
Bench-warmer

For the past 9 years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has topped the Asia Research Organization Readership Survey as the No.1 broadsheet in the country. This year, we've done it again, thanks to the faith of our readers, advertisers, dealers, and partners who remain confident in our commitment to public service. We're glad that whatever your reading style, you have made us a part of your life.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

De Villas complete 'Sister Act' in JW



DEBBIE De Villa: Five-stroke winner over Mia Piccio ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Jong Arcano

A FREAK accident that struck her fancied rival paved the way for Linnel de Villa to join little sister Debbie in a family party at the Callaway Junior World golf qualifying tournament as they joined the rest of the favorites in the winners circle at the Manila Southwoods yesterday.

Linnel was intensely engaged in a thrilling shootout for the girls Class B title with Geleen Handog until the 17th when the latter accidentally twisted a left ankle that even required assistance from the club's medical staff.

With a heavily bandaged foot, Handog was forced to carry just four clubs, leave her golf bag in the fairway (jungolfers are not allowed to get the services of caddies during tournaments) and walk without her shoes in the last two holes.

Handog made a 9 on the par-5 17th and a double-bogey on the last hole, giving De Villa all the room to post a four-stroke victory. De Villa scored 86-342 against the 89-346 of Handog.

Earlier, Debbie de Villa completed her mastery of Bacolod pride Mia Piccio in girls Class B.

AGOJO

Debbie won by five despite an 84 as Piccio could only shave four strokes off the nine-shot deficit she faced at the start of the day.

Also winning were Justine Tambunting and Jayvie Agojo in Class A, Miko Alejandro in boys Class B and Jik Jik Abdon in Class C. Together with the champions in Classes C and D at Riviera (see separate story) they will all be given free trips to Los Angeles by Philippine Airlines on their way to San Diego, California for the Junior World this coming July.

Meanwhile, Handog announced that entries for next week's Orchard leg must register today, Saturday, to be included in the pairings. They may either call the Jungolf office at 4219612 or his cellular phone 09178968137.

Tambunting scored a 75-294 and won by five over Nonoy Negrido (74), Agojo secured a 16-shot victory with a closing 76-300, far ahead of Matet Salivio (77), Alejandro's 76-296 was three better than Miko Yee (76-299) while Abdon overpowered the field in his division as he beat Amado Eustaquio by 27 with his 73-291.

Prizes for the event were donated by Electrobus Consolidated, the local distributor of Junior World title sponsor Callaway. The regular co-sponsors of the Samsung Jungolf Tour are Philippine Airlines, Airlift Asia, Air Liquide Phils., Global Lighting and Exito Manufacturing. Pisanti Golf, Bellevue Manila, Third World Ex-import, HBW Enterprises, MCCI Corp. and BF Technology are minor sponsors.

De la Paz nips Tabuena by 1

By Jong Arcano

"ATTACK the pins".

The game plan sounded more like a boast from a PGA Tour player. But Bino dela Paz justified it in winning the Class E (8 years and under) division of the Callaway Junior World qualifying tournament at the par-54 Riviera executive course yesterday in Silang, Cavite.

Dela Paz, a third grader at Ateneo, gunned down six birdies in a round of four-under-par 50 to edge Miguel Tabuena by a stroke and earn the free trip to the event in San Diego, California this coming July.

There was no way dela Paz would get conservative with his iron play that was already hot from the start as the son of a prawn farmer from Pampanga birdied four of his first seven holes and held off Tabuena and a never-say-die JR Gonzales in the back nine.

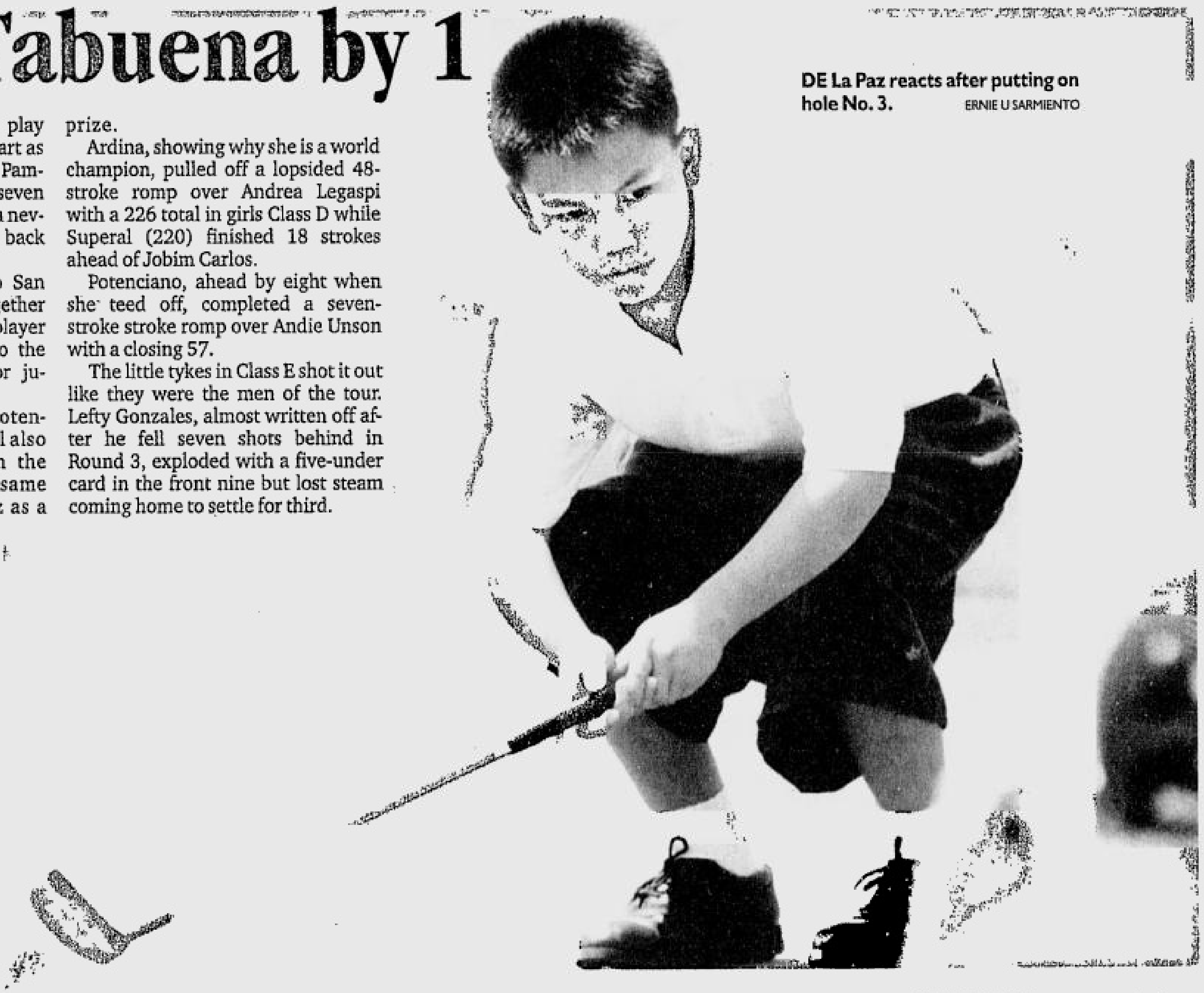
"I'm really excited to go to San Diego," said dela Paz, who together with Tabuena will join a 24-player strong Philippine contingent to the biggest international event for juniors.

Dottie Ardina, Kristina Potenciano and Wolen Juan Superal also formalized their victories in the other divisions and got the same ticket to the US like dela Paz as a prize.

Ardina, showing why she is a world champion, pulled off a lopsided 48-stroke romp over Andrea Legaspi with a 226 total in girls Class D while Superal (220) finished 18 strokes ahead of Jobim Carlos.

Potenciano, ahead by eight when she teed off, completed a seven-stroke stroke romp over Andie Unson with a closing 57.

The little tykes in Class E shot it out like they were the men of the tour. Lefty Gonzales, almost written off after he fell seven shots behind in Round 3, exploded with a five-under card in the front nine but lost steam coming home to settle for third.



DE La Paz reacts after putting on hole No. 3. ERNIE U SARMIENTO

Lewis faces Johnson; world title not staked

LOS ANGELES—Lennox Lewis will fight for the first time in a year, with or without Mike Tyson on the undercard.

Tyson may not be the only thing missing. Though most in boxing recognize Lewis as the heavyweight champion, his World Boxing Council title will not be at stake in the scheduled 12-round fight with Kirk Johnson.

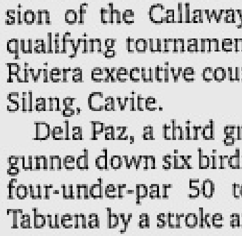
"My linear championship is at stake. That's greater than any of the other championship belts out there," Lewis said. "There is no higher title."

Lewis will face Johnson on June 21 in a match of Canadian heavyweights. Promoters and Staples Center officials also hoped to match Tyson against Oleg Maskaev, but Tyson has balked at signing a contract.

Tyson was noticeably absent at Thursday's news conference. He was in New York, where promoter Don King reportedly was trying to woo him back into the fold as part of an attempt to settle a $100 million suit Tyson has pending against King. *AP*

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat



WALLACE

BASKETBALL: NBA Action, 7:30 a.m. (r - 7:30 p.m.), ESPN

NBA Playoffs - Pistons vs Magic, Game 3, 8 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), ESPN, Mavericks vs Blazers, Game 3, 10:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), Solar Sports

World Pro Basketball Challenge, 10:30 a.m. (r), ESPN

POOL: World Pool Masters 2001, 10:30 p.m. (r), ESPN

BOWLING: World Tenpin Masters 2002, 3 p.m. (r), ESPN

SOCCER: English Premier League Preview, 7 p.m. (r), ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Kayang Kaya 2. The Fox 3. Miami Belle

Race 2--1 Schwarzenegger 2. Brusko 3. Houdini 4. Beautiful Task

Race 3--1.Real Tough 2. Island Lord 4. Music Express 4. Cavite Starlet

Race 4--1. Fortissimo 2. Awesome Power 3. Golden Lance 4. Golden Snakehotdog

Race 5--1. Catwalk Pia/Scenic Splendour 2. All for Glory 3. Bye Bye Baby

Race 6--1. Diamond Buck/Overland 2. Septembermorn

Race 7--1. Midnight Special 2. Mr. Dig- [illegible]

Race 8--1. Success Story 2. Speed Machine 3. Mister Cool/Powerhouse 4. Rosewood

Race 9--1. Time and Again 2. Salamat 3. Virgin Atlantic 4. Eyewitness

Race 10--1. Ahead of Time 2. Marvelous Jay 3. Green Leaves 4. Princess Malinda

Race 11--1. Love Song 2. Renegade/Give and Take 3. Men of Honor 4. Easy Rider

Race 12--1 Valentine Dancer 2. Slip Away 3. My Lady Ann 4. Firenze Rose/Demolition Jack

Race 13--1. Claro Di Ba 2. My Prayer 3. [illegible]

Anaheim wins, averts 3-game sweep

ANAHEIM, California—Bengie Molina hit a three-run homer and Anaheim beat New York to avoid a three-game sweep in their rematch of last year's playoff series.

Anaheim snapped the Yankees' seven-game winning streak and handed them just their fourth loss in 22 games. The Angels beat Andy Pettitte to end a 16-0 run by New York starting pitchers this season.

Pettitte (3-1) gave up six runs and eight hits in five innings. Tim Salmon hit a solo shot in the first.

Ramon Ortiz (3-2) went 5 1-3 innings and allowed two runs on eight hits, including Bernie Williams' leadoff homer in the sixth.

Jamie Moyer pitched six strong innings and Bret Boone hit a two-run single as Seattle completed its first three-game sweep of Cleveland in nearly 10 years after a 4-2 win.

Moyer (3-1) allowed a two-run homer to Casey Blake in the first inning but quickly settled down as the Mariners finished off their first three-game sweep against the Indians since July 9-11, 1993, at the Kingdome.

Edgar Martinez had an RBI single in the first. With closer Kazuhiro Sasaki on the disabled list, Jeff Nelson pitched the ninth for his first save.

Billy Traber (0-2) lost in his first major league start after scheduled starter Brian Anderson was scratched with a strained right hamstring.

Padilla Cup resumes Monday

By Roy Luarca

FIVE senior division games will be on tap when the 3rd Sen. Ambrosio Padilla Cup resumes on Monday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Mapua shoots for its third straight win against Metro Manila College in Group A at 4:30 p.m. following the 3 p.m. tussle between Philippine College of Criminology and Adamson B.

Other games pit San Beda College-A against San Sebastian College at 10:30 a.m., Lyceum against San Beda College-B at 12 noon and Ateneo against Jose Rizal University at 1:30 p.m.

Before the tournament took a Lenten break, Letran tows the 9-team Group A with a 4-0 card, followed by Mapua at 2-0.

Philippine Christian University and St. Jude lead Group B with 2-0 cards, followed by SBC-A at 1-0.

Multi-titled San Beda College and Letran pace the junior division with 1-0 slates while Lyceum heads the women's division at 2-0.

The Padilla Cup is sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines and is being supported by Cebuana Lhuillier, Burlington socks, Accel, Molten balls, Healthy Options and YKL Color Films.

BAP secretary general Graham Lim thanked Dr. Jun Rafanan, Dr. Pio Guerrero and Dr. Cynthia Ang of the Philippine General Hospital Sports Rehabilitation Clinic for always being around during the games of the tournament being held in honor of the BAP's founding president.

SARS can't stop games in Toronto

NEW YORK—Major league baseball intends to go ahead with all its games in Toronto, despite a SARS outbreak there, but advised players to be cautious about personal hygiene.

"We have a lot of concerns, but we also don't want to overreact," commissioner Bud Selig said Thursday.

"We are very sensitive and I am very concerned, but at this point our own doctors are telling us not to do anything differently," Selig told a group of Associated Press Sports Editors. "The advice we're getting internally is to proceed. Proceed with caution, but proceed."

The Toronto Blue Jays begin a nine-game homestand Friday, hosting the Kansas City Royals.

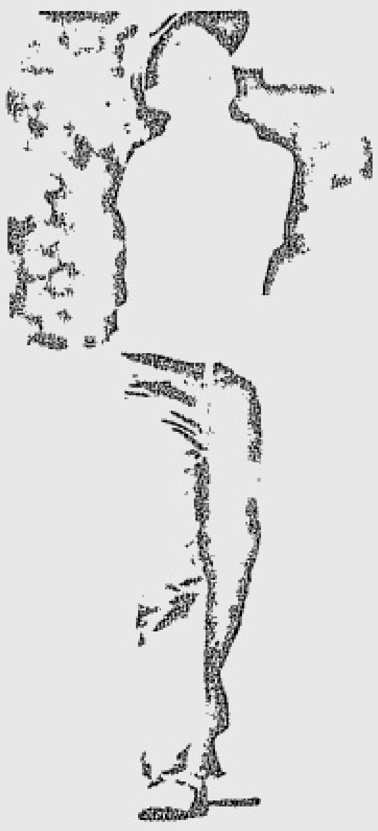
Baseball's medical adviser, Dr. Elliot Pellman, held a conference call Thursday with clubs that are part of the upcoming homestand to advise them on how to avoid severe acute respiratory syndrome, which has killed 16 people in the Toronto area. AP

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

De Villas complete 'Sister Act' in JW

By Jong Arcano

A FREAK accident that struck her fancied rival paved the way for Linnel de Villa to join little sister Debbie in a family party at the Callaway Junior World golf qualifying tournament as they joined the rest of the favorites in the winners circle at the Manila Southwoods yesterday.



De la Paz nips Tabuena by 1

By Jong Arc

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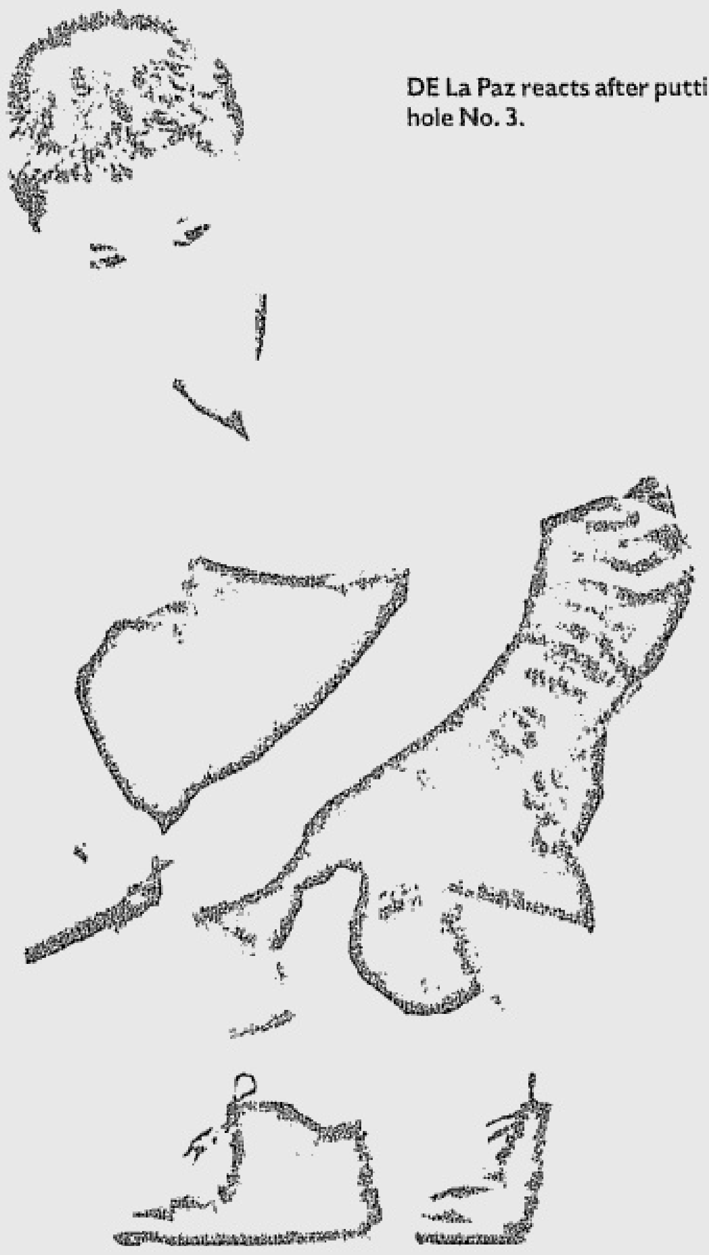


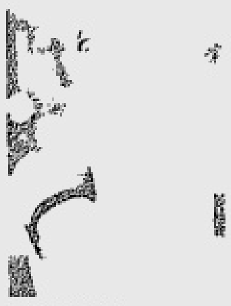
DE La Paz reacts after putting on hole No. 3.

Lewis f nson; world staked

Anaheim wins, averts 3-game sweep

SARS can't stop games in Toronto

SPORTS V



WALLACE

RA NG TIPS

Padilla Cup resumes Monda

By Roy Luarca

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SEAG slots at stake in trackfest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NO LESS than Philippine team slots to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games will be at stake for standouts in the Milo national track and field championships scheduled May 1-4 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

This means members of the national pool should prove their worth in the competition to secure berths in the December SEA Games as the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association intensifies its drive to discover new talents.

The Patafa is trying to surpass in Vietnam its medal haul of nine golds, 10 silvers and four bronzes during the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

Eduardo Buenavista, John Lozada, Lerma Bulauitan, Marestella Torres, Christabel Martes and Roy Vence, all SEA Games champions, are among the RP mainstays seeking another crack at the biennial event.

But Patafa chief Go Teng Kok said the RP roster is still open to young athletes who will shine in the four-day event that will feature entries from Malaysia and Thailand, the country's toughest rivals for track and field supremacy in the SEAG.

The Philippine Sports Commission has already released funds for the national open which is one of the major events Patafa has lined up this year.

The country will also host in July the Asian Grand Prix which features only the top five athletes in 15 selected events.

The Philippines will again stage the Asian championships in September, the biennial gathering of the best athletes in the region which the country last hosted in 1993.

Strikers, Highlander advance

PROSPERIDAD—Strikers and Highlander posted two victories each recently to advance to the semifinals of the Agusan del Sur tournament of the Red Ribbon Bakeshop Under-14 Football Festival at the DO Plaza Sports Complex here.

Powered by Romer John Cultura, Strikers plastered Pulp Raiders, 8-0, and Sices I, 3-0, while Highlander nipped Palm Oilers, 2-1, and Hill Siders, 1-0.

Cultura scored a hat-trick against Pulp Raiders and added another goal in the Strikers' triumph against Sices I.

The other Strikers markers came from Arnold Quisado, Rowell Pinto, Primitivo Aclan Jr., Jun Rey Arates and Jomar Oriol.

In other Agusan del Sur matches, Hill Siders blanked Sices II, 4-0; Palm Oilers shut out Palm Oilers, 3-0; and BNCHS Football Club battled Sices I to a scoreless draw.

Over at the UP Los Baños field in Laguna, the Los Baños Eagles whipped the Camp Vicente Lim-Canlubang boys, 4-0, while the Lumban booters outclassed the Bay Bulls, 11-0.

Fear of the known

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

YOU can fight fear but, alas, not bullets. That's the sad reality our Palaro officials have to face in the wake of fresh fighting in strife-torn Mindanao.

In a discourse here a while back, I said Tubod, Lanao del Norte, should be given its long-overdue break to stage the Palarong Pambansa. I premised my position on the issue of fear having to be overcome if we need to move on as right-thinking animals.

I guess I'll have to take back what I said.

If we are right-thinking animals, we have to always seriously think about the fear of the known more than the fear of the unknown. And the fear of the known is as clear as night following day: That Mindanao, Tubod included, is a known lair of terrorists always ready to wreak havoc on everyone.

There is war out there and war recognizes no one. Gunfire chooses no one; it hits both the right and the wrong, including children merely wanting to play hide-and-seek. Aren't adults at play also already children?

Sadly, many rebels in Mindanao have become hardcore terrorists who, like modern-day Neros of Rome, revel at mounting killer attacks at the most unexpected moments. We don't want our pool of future stars in sports getting decimated by a senseless terrorist attack while the Palaro is on. That'd be a catastrophe that should bother our conscience till the end of time. God forbid it should happen, for I don't think neither PSC chief Eric Buhain nor Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Dimaporo can live with that for the rest of their lives. Remember the Munich Olympics of 1972? The massacre there of Israeli athletes has scarred Israel's view of sports for life.

It used to be that rebels fight for a cause, as in the tradition of Cuba's Castro and Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh. It still is, I believe. But how many of our rebels in Mindanao still practice that? Seemingly, their ranks have become scarcer than scarce.

As things stand today, many of our so-called rebels in Mindanao have deteriorated into aimless, causeless fighters worse than a band of army deserters. They strike at will, either maiming or killing innocent civilians as in the recent two bomb blasts in Rudy Duterte's Davao City which killed nearly 30 people and injured scores more.

The other day, at least 16 people died in fresh fighting in Lanao del Norte. Quickly, Eric and Imelda went back to the drawing boards to re-map their plans for the Palaro. Secretary Ed Ermita of the government's peace-keeping process said there was need to re-assess the situation and Eric is now with top military officials in Lanao studying the security measures earlier designed for the Palaro.

I understand how hectic and troublesome the preparations were in the run-up to the Palaro's staging on May 4-11 in Tubod. Almost everything is now in place. They have not been done overnight. A lot of time and money were spent and I can imagine the frustrations of the people behind such a gargantuan project if it will not push through. It's like preparing a feast for the homecoming of a long-lost son: It gets cancelled because the son is not coming home after all. The son got himself kidnapped by terrorists on his way to the airport.

I know that only the President of the Republic can say if the Palaro is go or not. Only Eric, Imelda and the military can have the moral suasion to convince President Macapagal to push through with it or not.

Good luck to them if they still attempt at going for it.

SPORTSWATCH

Belle Cup golf slated

THE 2003 Belle Cup golf championship will be staged May 9-10 with a record field expected to vie for top honors at the Highlands and Midlands courses. Now on its fourth year, the event featuring members of the Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club Inc. and Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club, is touted as the club's biggest annual golfing event in terms of participation. It is a combination of three tournaments–the Highlands Cup, the Midlands Cup and the Belle Cup, which is the culmination of the first two events. Organizers of the event said the tournament will be open only to the first 125 teams with the field to be divided into two groups. The first group will play at the Highlands and the other at the Midlands on May 9. Belle Corp., developer of Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands Golf Club, is chaired by Benito Tan Guat. The vice chairpersons are Willy Ocier and Hans Sy while the current club president and general manager are Jerry Tiu and Nick Celdran, respectively.

Philam Homes wins

PHILAM Homes scored an expected romp right in the first round of the 36-hole north sector tournament of the Nokia Intervillage golf series, scoring 303 Stableford points and beating Don Enrique Heights at the Couples course of the Riviera golf complex in Silang, Cavite Thursday. Amadeo Ungson, a 10-handicapper, waxed hot under the scorching summer heat as he put in 40 points under the Stableford scoring system to power the defending overall champions past the Don Enrique Heights. The Don Enrique Heights golfers, who reigned supreme in Division C last year, pooled a 300-point output in the series sponsored for the second straight year by Nokia, the world leader in mobile communications. White Plains, likewise drawing solid 40 points from low handicapper Gerry Parulan, snatched third place honors with a 293 as last year's sectoral winner Corinthian struggled and limped home at fourth place with a 289.

Coseteng is top pick

COSETENG

THE fifth and sixth rounds of the 2003 SVI-Petron Grand Prix and the first two rounds of the Philippine National Touring Car Championships will be held at the Subic International Raceway this weekend. Defending champion Jody Coseteng of Red Horse-Caltex and upcoming Gaby de la Merced of Petron Auto Solutions try to hold on to the overall lead in their respective categories in this annual series organized by the Sports Values Inc. (SVI) in cooperation with Petron and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). Coseteng, who dominated two of the first four races held so far, seeks an all-important victory over his closest rivals Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA and Mike Anton of Red Bull-Auto Options in the Blaze-sponsored super saloon category. Coseteng had a four-round aggregate of 26 points based on the 10-6-4-3-2-1 scoring system being applied by the SVI. Ramirez has 25 points on the strength of his first-round triumph, while Anton has 20 points.

Knights rip Titans

DEFENDING champion Knights and title contender Bombay Bombers notched their second straight wins in contrasting styles to share the early lead after two days in the ongoing FIBL tournament at the Makati Coliseum. The Knights, behind a quick start that saw them take control of the game early, thrashed the slow-starting Titans en route to an easy 103-78 victory with the game's result never in doubt as the first quarter ended with the Knights ahead 23-6 behind game MVP Ravi Gurnamal. Action resumes this Sunday with the Bombers facing the Knights at 3 p.m., and the Titans facing the Kings at 5 p.m.

Derby stakes P1.3M

THE COMING "Laban-Laban 5-Cock Derby" of Lipa Games Cockpit on May 12, 14, 19 and 21 will stake a guaranteed prize of P1.3 million. Lipa Games Cockpit, one of the biggest cockfighting centers in Batangas, is located at Brgy. Balintawak, Lipa City. Entry fee is P5,500 while minimum bet is P3,300. More than 150 entries are expected to join, said hosts Leo Pasay and DS Piyeza-Royal Farm. For other derby details, contact Leo Pasay (09202253080); Orly (09197839499), Piyeza (09187307730) and DS (09195799678).

Cebu hosts karting

THE 2003 WG&A-Shell Super Karting Series resumes this weekend in Cebu City. Venue of the two-day event which was successfully launched in Carmona, Cavite last April 6, is Kart Zone Cebu, which is owned and managed by Jess Garcia and Justin Neri. Asian Intercontinental champion and first leg winner Dado Peña tries to duplicate his smashing win in the centerpiece expert open A category against a host of other equally talented karters in this nine-part series organized by the Carmona Circuit Phils. in cooperation with Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia and Denso. Peña dominated the season-opening leg on April 6, beating Michelle Bumbarner, Jess Garcia, Philip Alvendia and Manuel Sy in the third and final heat.

Top seeds booted out

FOURTH seed Joshua Tan Ho upset top seed Daniel Macalino, 6-4, 6-4, to enter the boys' 14-under final of the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Tan Ho, coming off a big win in the Milo tournament last week, will face third seed Pablo Olivarez, who also scored a 6-2, 6-2, reversal over second seed Russell Arcilla Jr. Boys' 12-under No. 1 Patrick Arevalo outclassed No. 3 Edwin Olivarez, 6-1, 6-2, to advance in the finals against No. 4 Tomic Apacible, a 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 winner over No. 2 Akio Sy. In the unisex 10-under class, third seed Alberto Villamor upset No. 1 Pocholo Macalino, 6-3, 6-3, to advance in the finals against second seed Noel Agra, who won by default over No. 5 Leander Lazaro.

Manny battles Ian

IBF superbantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao and actor Ian Veneracion will pit skills in an exhibition match 9-ball, race-to-three format tomorrow (April 27) at the SM Megamall B (Atrium) in Mandaluyong City. The exhibition match will be an added attraction for today's opening of the 1st SM Ladies 9-Ball Philippine Open billiards championships at the same venue.

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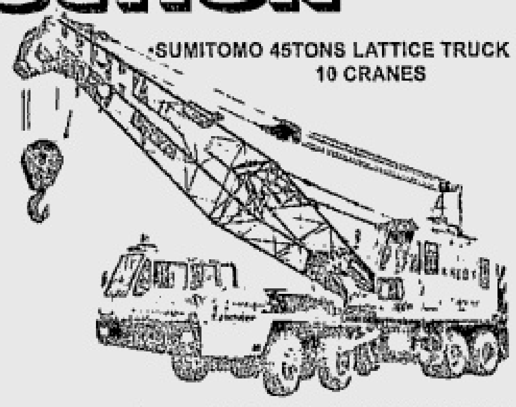
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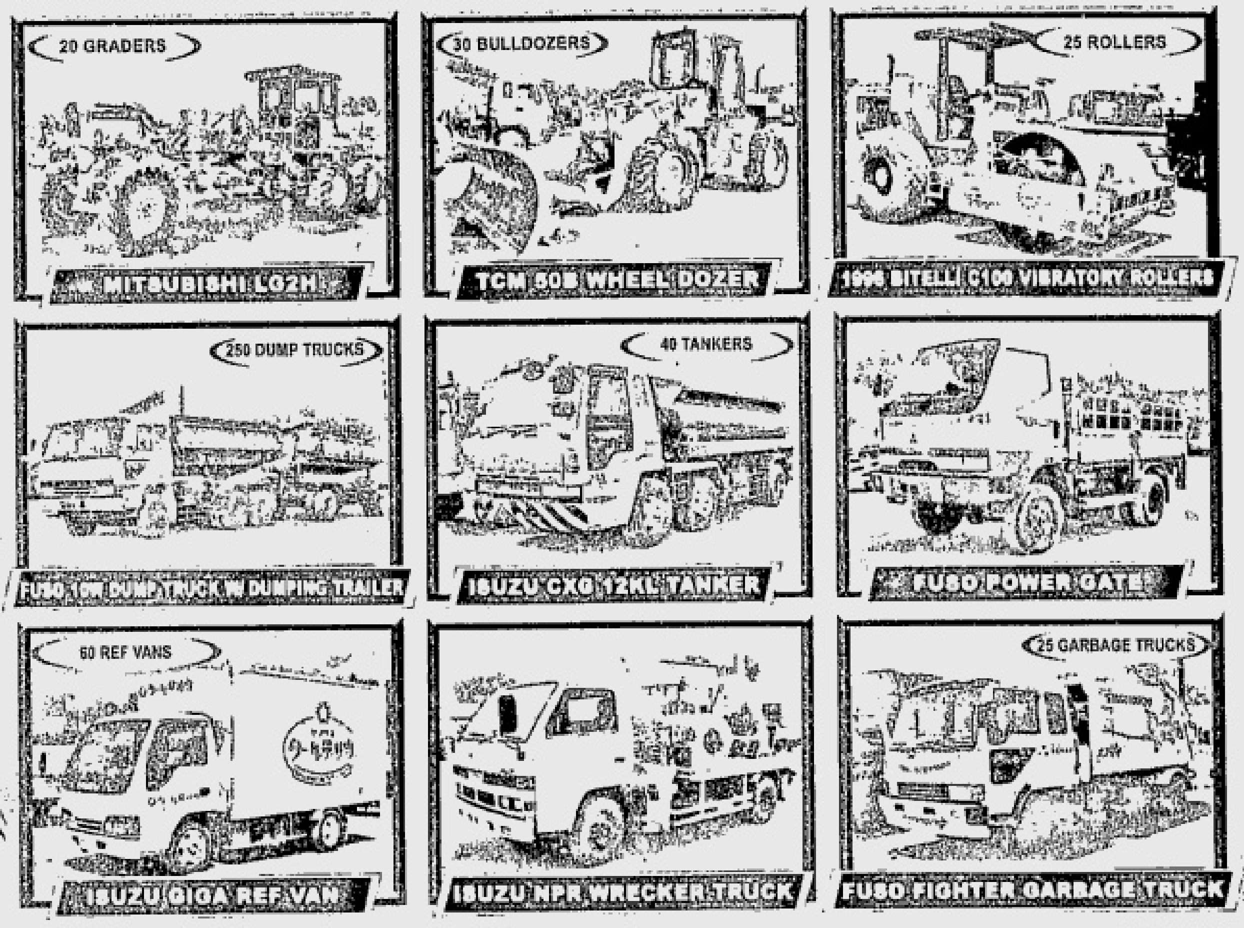

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SPORTS

Arroyo race moved to Santa Ana Park

By Edwin Villanueva

THE THIRD First Gentleman Silver Cup race won't push through at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Instead, the major race will be held at the Santa Ana Park in Makati on May 11 after members of various horse racing sectors met yesterday to call off its original May 4 schedule at the SLLP.

Reason? Everyone agreed that the SLLP main track still needs to be repaired and must be properly maintained.

Acting on the complaints of jockeys, members of the Marho (Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners) and Philtobo (Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization), the country's two major horse racing groups, as well as officials of the jockeys and trainers associations, said they decided to transfer the race to Santa Ana to avoid further damage to their horses.

The PCSO, organizer of the race, has already approved the transfer of the event honoring First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to the Makati track.

Five horses which raced recently at the SLLP have so far been destroyed, their handlers blaming the poor condition of the track as reason why their entries stumbled and broke their legs in the process.

"Proper maintenance at the SLLP track should be undertaken," stated the Marho, headed by Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, and his Philtobo counterpart, Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr.

Puyat said the Marho and Philtobo will seek a dialogue with the Philracom and the SLLP management "so that deficiencies can be corrected."

"According to the jockeys themselves, the new San Lazaro track should be maintained properly. There's nothing wrong with it as long as proper measures are done to ensure the safety of horses and jockeys," Puyat told the INQUIRER.

The SLLP, trumpeted as a world-class racing venue, opened on April 1 but has since been in the center of controversy because of the horses' deaths, incomplete grandstand and inadequate facilities.

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SARS to cut OFW remittances from HK

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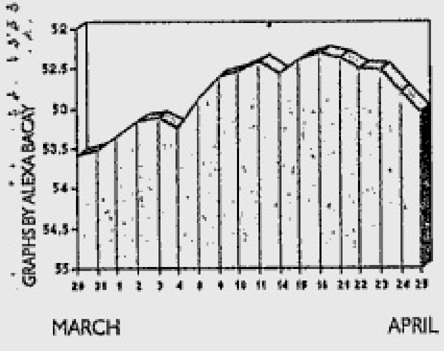

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As of 5 p.m., April 25, 2003

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As of 5 p.m., April 25, 2003

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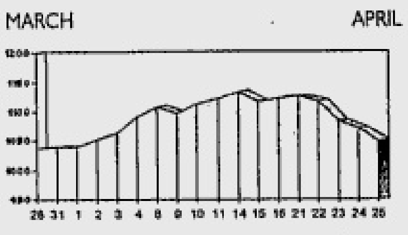
STOCK MARKET

Stocks slump on ratings downgrade

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS ended sharply lower again yesterday after a ratings downgrade revived fears about the country's fiscal deficit problems, traders said.

The main index slumped 1.97 percent, or 21.06 points to close at 1,049.39, its lowest finish since April 1 this year. The market has now lost around 6 percent of its value in the past three days.

Standard & Poor's (S&P) on Thursday cut its long-term local and foreign currency sovereign ratings for the Philippines citing the country's problematic fiscal deficit. Traders said this added to already gloomy sentiment over the worsening SARS outbreak.

"The ratings news is the main reason why many foreigners who had bought recently are placing sell orders. Some people are saying the SARS outbreak is another contributory factor," said Joey Roxas, president of Eagle Equities.

Reuters

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES risks losing as much as $33.6 million (P1.8 billion) in overseas remittances each year from the ban on fresh deployment of domestic helpers bound for Hong Kong amid the outbreak of the SARS virus, according to a new Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas study.

The same study said the regional panic over the outbreak would also weigh down on local tourism, but noted that the adverse impact could somehow be offset by the slowdown in foreign exchange outflow from spending for overseas travel.

The study was made by the BSP's research department to quantify the impact of the SARS outbreak on the external sector or the balance of payment (BOP) position, which measures the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange between the local economy and the rest of the world.

The estimated losses from Hong Kong alone were based on the average number of deployed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the former Crown colony.

"Potential losses from the suspension of deployment in Hong Kong is about $2.4-$2.8 million per month," the BSP document said.

According to the Philippine Overseas Employment Authority, about 9,600 OFWs leave for Hong Kong each month. These OFWs, in turn, remit 60-70 percent of their monthly salary to the Philippines.

The BSP's estimate is based on the reduced minimum monthly salary of HK$3,270 ($420) a month.

This developed as the World Health Organization issued a travel ban to Hong Kong and the southern Chinese province of Guangdong because of the viral outbreak.

The POEA, for its part, has also temporarily banned the processing of domestic helpers bound for Hong Kong to protect the prospective workers from the killer pneumonia. The ban will only be lifted once the WHO declares the outbreak under control.

The BSP study said it would be difficult to assess the net impact of SARS on travel. It said there may be negative and positive effects.

"The SARS virus, together with other unfavorable external and domestic factors (such as the contraction in global income and security concerns) would have a negative effect both on the number of inbound tourists and consequently on travel receipts," the BSP study said.

Preliminary data for January to February this year showed an increase in the number of inbound tourists by 9.6 percent over a year ago, the study noted.

Estimates of travel receipts for January 2003 amounted to $104 million or 67.5 percent lower than last year while travel expenditures of outbound resident travelers amounted to $92 million.

SARS crisis poses economic, political challenge to Asia

HONG KONG—The last time Asia was engulfed in crisis, during the financial cataclysms of the late 1990s, China was on the sidelines. As regional financial markets and currencies collapsed and millions slipped back into poverty, the Chinese economy chugged ahead.

This time, China's leaders are the ones being put to the test.

The outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, could wreak political as well as economic havoc on a scale rivaling the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis if not brought under control soon, some believe.

Thus far, the spread of SARS throughout the region has been limited. Mainland China, Hong Kong and Singapore account for roughly nine out of 10 cases worldwide, shielding most Asian economies from the brunt of the outbreak.

Despite temporary stoppages due to SARS on some production lines, manufacturing and trade have continued with little disruption.

Overall, the region is in better shape than it was when the Asian financial crisis hit in mid-1997. Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand have scaled back foreign debt. And after the high-tech bust and the bear markets of the past several years, there are no financial or real estate bubbles left to burst.

"There's been a more sober general tone to financial markets, so they are less vulnerable than they might have been," says David Cohen, Singapore-based regional economist for MMS International, an international investment advisory group.

Still, SARS has already cost Asia billions in terms of lost tourism, retail sales and other consumer spending. The World Health Organization recently put the cost of SARS at $30 billion.

The earlier Asian crisis, by contrast, is believed to have cut world economic growth by up to $800 billion, according to one estimate by the Asian Development Bank.

Alarmed by massive closures of restaurants, shops and travel agencies, the Hong Kong government has pledged an HK$11.8 billion ($1.5 billion) package of tax, utility and rent cuts and bank loans to help alleviate the strain of SARS on the already ailing economy.

SARS/B3

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Contract lens

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THAT German firm Fraport, which put up almost all the money for the Naia Terminal 3 project, already at an amazing $500 million plus, is bellyaching to the World Bank.

What is taking this cute administration of Gloriaetta, Fraport in effect is sobbing to the World Bank, so long to decide what to do with the airport project?

To my mind, Fraport's point is simple: It only wants this cute administration to close its eyes and simply allow Piatco, the terminal operator, to break the law.

Fraport owns Piatco together with the Cheng group. And so Fraport wants this cute administration to allow it, while breaking the law, just to make a big killing.

At whose expense, you ask. The idea could put about 10,000 people out of job at the airport. It is not good for airport users like the 8 million OFWs. Nice try, Helmut!

* * *

YOU see, a documented agreement between the stockholders of Piatco and other companies in the Cheng group allowed out-and-out monopolies in Naia 3.

I said "documented," because my info is, it is even logged as Document No. 462, Page 93, Book I, Series of 1999 in the notarial books of Manila notary Philip S. Dionisio.

Whether or not some enterprising young lawyers or fiscals can find a good case in the document, I cannot say. There is only one way to find out, pañero.

The document is known as First Addendum to the Piatco Shareholders Agreement. It was signed on July 6, 1999.

It gave other companies in the Cheng group, which were also partly owned by Fraport, the monopoly in ground handling, cargo handling, fueling and catering.

* * *

THAT, by the way, is the same document which went through the contract lenses of the DOJ, the Senate blue ribbon committee, and Office of the Solicitor General.

Such an agreement, to all those three government bodies, was a crime, making the Piatco contract null and void. Well, the law does not allow any monopoly in anything.

In crying to the World Bank, therefore, Fraport forgot to blame our Revised Penal Code. This law says that people, even if they are Germans, cannot create monopoly here.

Or else they go to jail. You cannot prevent free competition. To think, Fraport even had the presence of mind to document its crime in a "shareholders' agreement."

Look at that—just the mere intent is enough. You don't even have to do it. It's like the Catholic belief that you can commit adultery in your mind. No fun at all!

* * *

ANYWAY, in crying all the way to the World Bank, Fraport is also trying to destroy our image abroad. Nobody can do business in the Philippines anymore! Something like that!

It is clear that Fraport and the Cheng group were breaking the law. *Hindi nakalusot!* Caught redhanded in its devil design, Fraport now cries foul abroad.

It is clear in the document that the Piatco stockholders, such as Fraport and the Cheng group, granted monopolies to a company called Pags.

The monopoly covers all the services at the Naia 3 for ground handling, catering, and fueling services. And it only lasts for all the 25 years of the Piatco concession.

Who owns Pags? Whadayano—the Cheng family owns 60 percent. And the remaining 40 percent belongs to ... well, the world bellyaching champion Fraport.

* * *

SIGNATORIES in the shareholders' agreement were Fraport's top officials Wilhelm Bender and Bernd Struck.

You can see other famous names, such as those of Jefferson Cheng, Stephen Bauchpiess, Vic Cheng Yong, Remy Tigulo.

And then, there were the familiar names of Oscar Lopez-Dee (EBC Investments, Inc.), Hiroshi Kanematsu (Nisho Iwai Corp.), Lim Kwee Siah (Chuan Hup Inc.) Jose Perpetuo M. Lotilla, Nilo B. Peña, and Tony King.

Serving as legal counsel of Piatco for a long time was the Sebastian Liganor Gelinato & Tierra law firm.

But I heard that, in 1999, for some reason, the Piatco account went to Katherine Agnes M.C. Arnaldo, who came from the same law firm.

* * *

ABOUT two years later, from what I gathered, they made a little insertion into the document, by putting in the phrase "to the extent allowed by law." Nice try!

Thus, the so-called Third Addendum to the Piatco Shareholders Agreement gives the same exact monopolies to the same companies if, well, it is legal.

So if the Senate or DOJ or OSG did not review the whole thing, and the monopoly plan actually squeaked through, we simply would get it in the behind..

But since the plan got blown out, the Cheng group simply gets, courtesy of the cry baby Fraport, something like $7 million.

Under a separate agreement, if the monopoly is not allowed by law, Fraport pays the Chengs some $7 million for doing nothing. Wow! Could I have some of those, too?

* * *

NOBODY knows if Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos got accurate info, but he recently announced—and rather proudly—the "winner" of a fat P1.3-billion contract.

It involves the supply of some 1,700 counting machines for next year's national elections, covering all the precincts all over the country.

And the winner is, according the Comelec press statement, quoting Abalos himself, was a certain company called Mega Pacific. Mega who?

It is a family corporation, with Enrique Tan Sipek as president, Rosy Tan Sipek as vice president, and a certain Vic Monros as "business development manager."

The actual supplier of the counting machine is a company from South Korea known as SK Global. Reports say it is into a lot of financial trouble back home.

* * *

BUT word has it that the "equipment" from SK Global is still in the development stage. Another way of saying it is, well, the machine does not exist yet.

Under the bidding rules, however, the Comelec wanted machines which were in production for the past five years, already used in at least one election, and counted at least 20 million votes.

The reason Abalos said clearly himself: "There will be no experimentation in these modernization projects."

Mega Pacific indeed submitted a machine for DOST testing precisely to prevent such an experimentation. The DOST went on record to say that it is just a prototype. It is not the same machine which Mega Pacific entered in the bidding.

If that is not experimentation, maybe it is just a trial balloon.

* * *

NOW if it is such a new thing, how could the entry of Mega Pacific have been in production in the past five years, actually used to count 20 million vote in at least one real election?

Word also goes around that, during the testing, Mega Pacific itself did the "shading" on the ballots. It tried to perfect the markings. This does not happen in real life.

Moreover, DOST insiders swear that the Mega Pacific prototype conked out three times during the testing. It was only, er, "revived" by six Koreans every time.

In other words, during the election day itself, we must deploy close to 11,000 thousand Koreans to look after the conking machine.

Never mind the smell of kimchi. It's just that, if we cannot get that many Korean technicians, well, I think we will have bigtime election problems in 2004.

I am not sure if that is the intention.

Marubeni keen on investing in RP copper mining ventures

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MARUBENI Corp. has renewed its interest in the Philippine copper mining industry as it bared plans to take over and reinvigorate former industry giants, including Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.

Marubeni Philippines Corp. president Ryukichi Kawaguchi told reporters that the company was primarily interested in investing in copper mining projects in the country.

"The Philippines has the world's fifth largest copper resources and this could potentially be its cash box," Kawaguchi said.

Kawaguchi said the government has to maximize its natural resources in attracting foreign investments to offset the bad impact of geopolitical and regional events on the economy.

Marubeni is looking to ship the copper concentrates to China where demand is on the upswing due to the Mainland's rapid industrialization. Marubeni used to own a number of Philippine mining firms (Maricalum Mining Corp., Marinduque Mining Corp. and Philippine Nickel Co.) and copper smelter Pasar.

Kawaguchi said Marubeni was actively looking at several candidates such as Atlas as a potential target for its plan to engage in copper mining in the country. Atlas used to be one of the world's biggest copper producer until poor copper prices and high debt weighed down on the company's operations.

Kawaguchi said Marubeni was encouraged by the President's recent efforts to open the mining industry especially to big foreign investors.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced a major policy shift in the mining industry last December from tolerance to active promotion after Malacañang realized that the sector has the biggest potential to contribute the most to the country's economic growth. The Philippine economy is growing at roughly 4 percent a year or way below the government's aspiration of 7 percent growth for seven years.

The Chamber of Mines projected that the Philippines could attract at least five world-class mines and five middle-tier projects that could generate at least $4 billion in new investments, $3 billion in annual exports, and P30 billion in annual taxes for the next 10 to 20 years.

Investments in RP show best returns

HONG KONG—Mutual funds investing in the Philippines delivered the best returns to investors in March, after plunging to near the bottom a month earlier, latest data shows.

Funds focused on South Korea were the region's worst performers during the month, in which a high-profile corporate accounting scandal jolted the country's financial markets.

Philippine-themed funds gained 3.5 percent during the course of March, after losing 4.8 percent in February as the second-worst performers, according to latest data from fund-tracking firm Lipper, a Reuters company.

The gains were better than a 2-percent rise in the benchmark Philippine composite index last month. In February, the index lost 3.8 percent.

Eleven of the 12 mutual funds in the Philippines tracked by Lipper handed positive returns to investors in March, but most fund managers remain wary of the country which is battling a yawning fiscal deficit and weakening currency.

A recent Merrill Lynch survey of Asian fund managers found that the Philippines remained the least liked market among regional asset allocators.

March was a bad month for mutual funds investing in Asia, which has been hit by an outbreak of a deadly respiratory disease.

Only three of the 15 geographic sectors tracked by Lipper registered gains, worse than the previous month, when five sectors delivered positive returns. *Reuters*

BDO posts 102% profit increase

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank yesterday said its unaudited profit in the first quarter of this year rose 102 percent to P271.6 million, from the P134.4 million in the same period last year.

"The growth in income is on account of the increase in the bank's deposit and loan portfolio, coupled by the strong performance of its fee-based activities—trust, branch and treasury fixed-income dealership," Banco de Oro vice president and corporate information officer Mario Rabanal said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Banco de Oro said interest income grew 78 percent to P845.6 million, from last year's P474.6 million.

Operating expenses also grew to P1.1 billion from P590 million primarily due to higher operating volumes, increased taxes and expenses related to the operations of additional branches acquired from First e-Bank.

Tax provision trims FLI income

FILINVEST Land Inc., owned largely by the Gotianun family, said its net profit last year fell to P504 million from P531.23 million the previous year on higher income tax provisions.

Gross profit, the property firm said, rose to P1.074 billion from P1.033 billion.

In a statement, FLI first vice president Fely Ramos said the substantial increase in provision for income tax to P171 million last year, from P90 million in the previous year, was the result of the reversal of accumulated deferred tax on foreign exchange transactions following the full redemption of the firm's dollar-denominated convertible bonds.

FLI projects due for launching this year include San Rafael Estates in Bulacan, Woodvale in Rizal, Montebello in Laguna and Mandala farm in Timberland Heights, Rizal. *Elena R. Torrijos*

UnionBank Q1 net hits P470M

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNION Bank of the Philippines reported a net profit of P470 million for the first quarter of the year.

The three-month profit was 7 percent lower than year-ago level but 37 percent better than the P344 million posted in the previous quarter ending December.

The bank's capital funds hit P13.9 billion as of end-March, resulting in a risk-adjusted capital ratio of 43 percent.

"This ratio is four times the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) requirement of 10 percent, more than three times the industry average of 13.2 percent and up from UnionBank's level of 38.59 percent in Dec. 31, 2002," the bank noted.

The bank set aside P60 million as provision for loan losses in the first quarter of 2003, raising its loan loss coverage to 79 percent vis-a-vis the industry average of 50 percent.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 25, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.5	57.500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	296.200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2.000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24	24	23.75	23.75	30.300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27.5	42.400
Philippine National Bank	24	24	23.75	23.75	6.000
Phil. Savings Bank	25	25	25	25	1.400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	11.000
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	7.348.000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20.000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1050	1050	1050	2,270.
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	22.800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.63	0.67	12.910.000
Globe Telecom Inc.	560	560	545	550	151.700
Ipeople Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20.000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	2,000.000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	1,810.000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	372.5	372.5	365	370	195.650
Philweb Corp.	130	0.013	0.012	0.013	42,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	7	7	6.8	6.8	192.000
Manila Electric Co. B	9.8	9.8	9.3	9.5	1,455.000
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.82	1.92	6,208,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	221.000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.5	2.44	2.44	207,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.52	0.54	5,430,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	40,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	513.700
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	470.000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	57	0.500
San Miguel Corp. B	66	66	65	66	84.200
Universal Robina Corp.	3.3	3.7	3.3	3.7	243.000
Vitarich Corp.	.30	0.3	0.3	0.3	110,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	50.000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	40.000
Ayala Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.8	3.9	3,675.000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	95.000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	2,800,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	15,000.000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	5.000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	400.000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.195	0.21	8,920.000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	350.000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2400	0.24	0.23	0.24	3,180.000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.75	1.2	0.75	1.04	121,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	71.000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	250.000
Ionics Inc.	7200	0.72	0.72	0.72	70.000
Macroasia Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	120.000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	830.000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60.000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.17	0.175	640.000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	1,460.000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.59	0.8	0.59	0.7	1,820.000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	500.000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cerro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	10.000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	20.000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	291.000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	197.000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.88	1.9	1.72	1.86	606.000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	24	24	21	21	1,100
SPI Technologies Inc	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	55.900
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Bella Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	5,100.000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100.000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13	13	12.75	12.75	73.800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10	10	10	10	2.000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	1.000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	11,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10	10	10	10	1.000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	36.000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	18,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.75	4.8	1,701,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	1,190.000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.165	2.570.000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.86	0.86	12,980.000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100.000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	40.000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.65	4.65	7,753,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	32	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000.000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	109.000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	1850	0.185	0.185	0.185	900.000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	21,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000.000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	44,000.000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	10,000,000
Pacifica	90	0.009	0.009	0.009	9,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc.	7,819,070	26,326,810.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	122,145,350	240,572,070.00
PRO	26,334,000	56,392,450.00
Mining	23,109,000	389,460.00
OIL	78,000,000	268,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	257,407,420	323,949,190.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc.	357.77	DOWN 4.55
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,543.89	DOWN 29.67
PRO	426.98	DOWN 16.26
Mining	1,158.49	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.21	DOWN 0.04
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	677.83	DOWN 6.8
Composite	1,049.39	DOWN 21.0

NO. OF ADVANCES: 11; NO. OF DECLINES: 58; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 24; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 93
NO. OF TRADES: 2,353

CURRENCIES

April 25, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.905797	1.000000	52.658000
Japan	Yen	0.007558	0.008344	0.439400
United Kingdom	Pound	1.443207	1.593300	83.900000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.116139	0.128217	6.751700
Switzerland	Franc	0.665685	0.734916	38.699200
Canada	Dollar	0.622071	0.686766	36.163700
Singapore	Dollar	0.509361	0.562335	29.611400
Australia	Dollar	0.561700	0.620117	32.654100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.402773	2.652661	139.683800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.241553	0.266674	14.042500
Brunei	Dollar	0.507933	0.560758	29.528400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000115	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.021163	0.023364	1.230300
UAE	Dirham	0.246637	0.272287	14.338100
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.104000	58.134400
Argentina	Peso	0.316712	0.349650	18.411900
Brazil	Real	0.302134	0.333556	17.564400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134645	0.148648	7.827500
India	Rupee	0.019167	0.021160	1.114200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.238399	0.263193	13.859200
Mexico	New Peso	0.086954	0.095997	5.055000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.502718	0.555001	29.225200
Norway	Kroner	0.128063	0.141381	7.444800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015690	0.017322	0.912100
South Africa	Rand	0.124903	0.137893	7.261200
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000819	0.043100
Sweden	Kroner	0.109790	0.121208	6.382600
Syria	Pound	0.021567	0.023810	1.253800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026073	0.028785	1.515800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000568	0.000627	0.033000

INTEREST RATES

April 25, 2003
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 25-Apr-03 (%)	MART1 24-Apr-03 (%)
1 Month	8.3327	8.1461
3 Months	8.4115	8.3308
6 Months	9.225	8.9865
1 Year	9.7	9.655
2 Years	10.3846	10.3135
3 Years	11.3211	11.125
4 Years	12.0211	11.9289
5 Years	12.3423	12.2327
7 Years	12.9481	12.8981
10 Years	13.7846	13.1558
20 Years	13.7846	13.775
25 Years	14.2481	14.2558

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBE

TAX-COMPLIANCE DRIVE

BIR uncovers proliferation of untaxed wines, liquors

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has uncovered the proliferation of untaxed wines and liquors being sold by upscale retailers, including US retail giant PriceSmart.

In a statement yesterday, the BIR also named retailers like Ralph Wines and Spirits and Arellano Wine as among those selling untaxed wines and liquors.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said if these establishments which cater to the upscale market do not comply with the most basic requirement of doing business, "what greater crime are they committing when they declare their levels of sales and incomes for tax purposes?"

The discovery of the untaxed wines and liquors was made as the BIR's tax compliance verification drive deployed more than 2,000 employees to visit about 6,000 establishments in Metro Manila and surrounding areas.

Aside from discovering that even stores in the premier areas in Makati as well as nearby enclaves patronized by the upscale market did not comply with the basic requirement such as the issuance of receipts, the BIR noted the proliferation of untaxed wines and liquors.

"At PriceSmart in Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, for example, in the campaign conducted three days ago, found were over 2,000 bottles of wines and liquors without the auxiliary labels that would indicate that taxes have been paid," the BIR statement said.

"In another store in the same area, Ralph Wines and Spirits, several hundred bottles of wines and liquors were found, also without the auxiliary label, hence, taxes due them were not paid," it added.

The BIR said a follow-up operation was conducted the next day in the heart of Makati City, leading to the discovery that Arellano Wine in Bel-Air was selling hundreds of untaxed wines and liquors.

The Bel-Air branch of Ralph Wines and Spirit was also found guilty of the same violation.

"Most of the bottles found were brands unknown and foreign to drinkers who are familiar only with the likes of Fundador, Stolichnaya, Black Label, White Castle, London Dry Gin etc.," the BIR said.

"Only cosmopolitan connoisseurs and cognoscenti in fine tastes would be familiar, for example, with Citra Montepulciano d' Abruzzo, Yol y Merlot, Chianti Fattona, JMA Cote du Rhone, Sophia Cabernet Sauvignon, Bulgari Chardonay WW, to name only a few," the statement stressed.

The BIR statement quoted PriceSmart Fort Bonifacio duty manager Alan Aguasin as pledging he would "undertake payment of correct taxes due" on the more than 2,000 bottles of wines and spirits found in the premises of his store.

The BIR has harnessed its 11,000-strong workforce all over the country to conduct the weekly nationwide tax compliance verification drive to cover more than 300,000 establishments before the year ends.

SARS crisis poses economic, political challenge to Asia

From page B1

China's own economy looks certain to slow from the sizzling 9.9-percent economic growth recorded in the first three months of the year.

Citigroup recently lowered its 2003 growth forecast for China to 6.5 percent from 7.6 percent, following similar revisions by other banks.

An economist with the Geneva-based World Trade Organization, Michael Finger, warns that given China's growing importance as an engine of growth for the global economy, world trade could suffer if SARS is not brought under control soon.

"It will be quickly felt throughout the economy. The biggest problem will be if it creates some panic reactions," Finger said.

Some signs of panic were seen this week, as anxious Beijing residents stocked up on food and other supplies after the city government announced measures to quarantine people exposed to the deadly virus.

Insulated by restrictions on its trade and financial markets, China weathered downturns in foreign investment and export demand during the last crisis by keeping its currency steady and spending heavily to stimulate its domestic economy.

How well other Asian countries fared depended greatly on how they responded to the need for political and economic reforms.

"Governments either rise to the occasion or they don't," says Bill Overholt, Asia policy chair at Rand Corp.

Now, China faces a similar challenge, he says. *AP*

Smart cited as country's best employer

LEADING wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc. has been cited as the Philippines' best employer in an Asia-wide study conducted by Dow Jones and Hewitt Associates, together with Dow Jones publications The Asian Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER).

"I just wish to share the award with all the men and women of Smart. They did the job. This award will inspire us to do better than our best," said Napoleon L. Nazareno, Smart president and CEO while accepting the award during the Philippines Best Employers Awards Night at the Hotel InterContinental Thursday.

Smart was cited for "sustaining leadership position in the (mobile phone) industry by inspiring and motivating employees to be at peak performance at all times, practicing social responsibility attached to the ability to influence the lifestyles of Filipinos, and for its very open communication and highly consultative process in implementing organization change."

Smart headed a group of 10 companies that made it to the Philippines list of Best Employers in Asia-2003. The others were Procter and Gamble Distributing Inc., Discovery Suites, Intel Philippines Inc., Philippine Pizza Inc., DBP, WG&A Inc., Unilab, Mirant and Fedex.

The country's biggest mobile phone company, Smart has about 5,000 employees serving more than 9 million subscribers who use its digital mobile phone network. The company rose to the top of the industry by "being a maverick and constantly changing the rules of the game," Nazareno said.

"About 40 percent of Smart's senior management officials, 53 percent of its managers and 60 percent of its supervisors are employees who have risen from the ranks," said Annette V. Santiago, Smart human resources management and development group head.

The Best Employers in Asia 2003 study identifies best employers based on employee opinions, the organization's people practices and the perspective of the organization's CEO or most senior executive.

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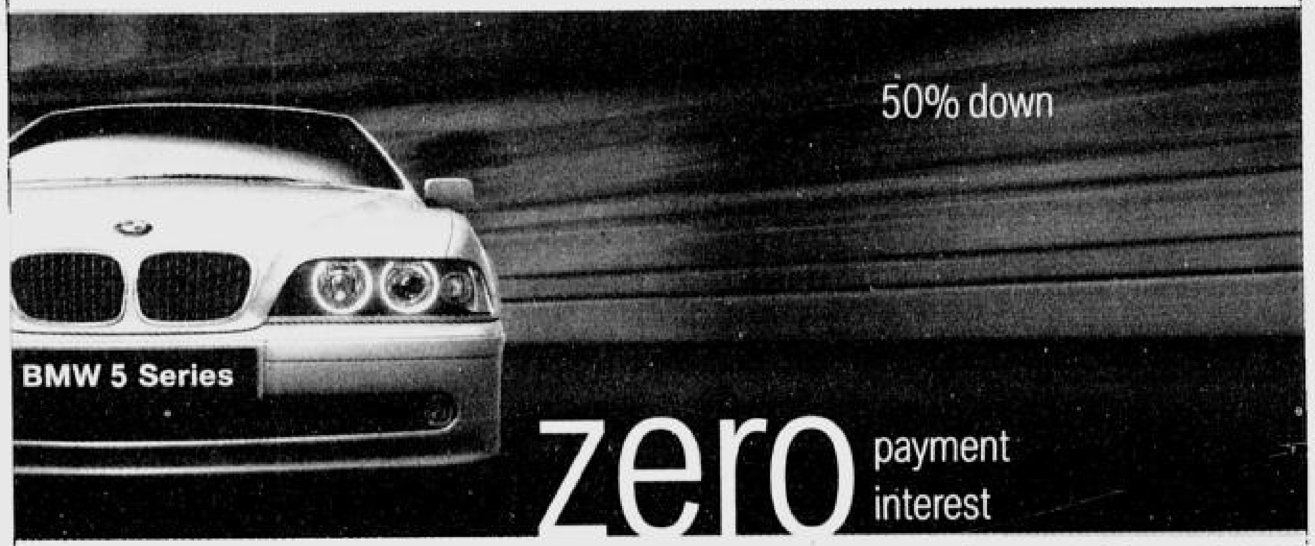

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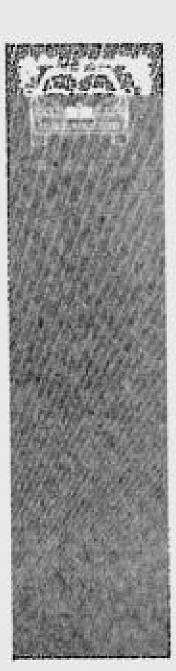

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANILA

3Big Room nrDLSU 8992148

PASIG

418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. frnt College T-6414589, 09175372340

6.4Has Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas T-6414589. 09175372340

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN Cal City LA240m² FA104m 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic/Gie 8903461 loc. 27

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MAKATI

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MANILA

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P3.460M 8903461 loc 34

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Gnhls. new4br 2.2M 9487112

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4 Sale 5br PHOENIX Subd. Pasig 410sqm 636-7974 Rudy

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QUEZON CITY

4 Sale Adonis ACROPOLIS [illegible] 414 sqm 636 .974 Rudy

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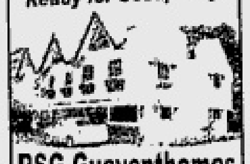

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•Proj2 new 9210255/9219967•

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Sn PEDRO 7 SUBD
nr Channel 5 NOVA
LA144 FA60 2BR w/grge
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RUSH SALE WHITE PLAINS 5BR 2sty maidrm for 4, drvrs rm for 2, 4car grge w/big garden P19M neg pls call Esmie/Josie9134884 Tita/ Chelly/ 9114705/4649 (Sat&Sun)

SAMAR AVE P9.5M
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at 911-4705 / 911-4649

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3BR 1DEN 2-6 CAR GRGE
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NEW MLA 3BR 2CAR GRGE 5.5M 7157091/09184491555

• Xavierville 12M 4BR 4121825

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CAINTA 131sqm 1.3M 8979541

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Vermont Park Antipolo 239m² 2sty 5BR w/ bathtub attic 2aircon L340 tel grge P5M 7801821 /119 '64050 welcome agents

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- 130 sqm average lot area

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LA MEDITERRANEA 2Stry 3Bdrm 1T&B LA110m² FA80m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 lc 27

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- Bldg. 3 soon to open
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- 2 BR, 2 TB – 62 sqm
- 3 BR, 2 TB – 70 sqm

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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Spanish designed condo P10.7T/mo.

An exclusive community in the booming city of Taguig

Very secured and stylish, located near the International School Market Market & The Fort, with easy access to C5

643 5104/641 6500

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m² P1 7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

Laguna Bel Air-No down ! 3/4Br 35%discl T896-0528

Sta Rosa 3T/mo T5202784

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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Bel Air Soho. 8-10T/mo Liza M/0920 7578922

MAKATI CONDO RUSH SALE
PRIME LOCATION 55M² P2.2M
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9114649 for details

MANILA

Ideal For Dormitory Nr UST w/Income 0917-5218338

Nr UST P3.6M 136FA 6453731

PASIG

PASIG 2BR P2.7M 9126833

RIZAL

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P1.6-7M 2-5BR 10%DP P16T/mo LA150-250SQM nr. La Salle/ Assumption • 0918-9356737

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QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB w/grge Loyola Hts P1.4M neg 0917-8924052

2BR CONDO CUBAO 9120679

Cubao P1.4M 10%DP 9132224

Eastwood City Libis 1-3 BR Studio Call 0917-5218338

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

TAGAYTAY HEIGHTS

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- Along highway to Batangas
- Near Mahogany Market
- Perfect weather whole year round
- 250 sqm average lot area

As low as
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CONDO/TWNHSE

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LOT

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LAS PINAS

TALON 204m²@P4,500
639-1694 / 0917-8102903

MALABON

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MAKATI

M.Unidos St. Lot 563-1498

MUNTINLUPA

SOUTH GREENHTS VILL 300m² fenced P3,833/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc 25/27

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

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- First class neighborhood in Calamba Laguna
- View of Mt. Makiling
- With existing clubhouse, swimming pool, and basketball court
- 110 sqm average lot area

As low as
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QUEZON CITY

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good 4 gas station Antipolo Sumulong 6391694 0917-8102903

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RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

LAGUNA

MILLWOOD SUBD LA100m² P3,500/m Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m LA240m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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★ZAMBALES Mango Farm 7,9,10,30,68has 09192221766

ZAMBALES alg hway 3M 50+mango tilled 09192221766

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P250/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

★SUBIC back of CT Hall 46has.@200/m² 0919221766

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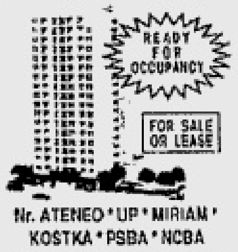

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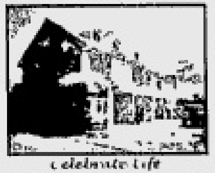

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- With experience in any food chain

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- At least 2nd year college
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ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

AUCTION SALE

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop
Makati City
Auction Sale on May 7, 2003 all unredeemed pledges during the month of December 1-31, 2002. Nuestra Br. II Pio- 9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am, Damus Pawnshop- 12:30pm, Nuestra Main 1:30pm, Nuestra Br. IX Zapote 3:00pm.
Sons of J. Lanuza
Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP LAS PINAS METRO MANILA
Will have its auction sale on May 9, 2003 All unredeemed pledges during the month of December 1-31, 2002 Nuestra Br IV-8:30am, Diajade Main 9:30am, Diajade Br II 10:30am; Diajade Br. I 1:00pm. - Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Tel #: 8104901-10; Fax #: 8186807; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph; E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE – GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites Health Maintenance Organizations in the Philippines to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to participate in the bidding for its Health Maintenance Program for the period, July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PDIC Health Maintenance Program
Location	2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Estimated Number of Enrollees	Principal Members: 750
Approved Budget of the Contract	P10,395,000.00
Minimum Requirement	HMOs whether 100% local or at least 60% owned by citizens of the Philippines which satisfy the following minimum requirements: • partnerships and corporations duly organized under the laws of the Phils. • cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Devt. Authority Bidders must have at least five (5) years experience in the business and with at least 10 corporate clients in the last 5 years.

The Application for Eligibility shall be made available to interested/prospective bidders from April 28 to May 2, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM while the Bid Documents shall be made available to eligible bidders from May 16 – 21, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, PDIC Bldg., 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of RA 9184.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) JESUS FIDELINO D. CLARIZA
Chairman

(PDI--April 26 & May 3, 2003)

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Mico, Nicole, Gabby AJ & Christian

Mommy Lita,
Thank you for always helping us to remember what is important in life... and today it is YOU!
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Irah, Basti & Pauline

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Mommy Tess,
If there was a day for everything you have given me as a mother, it would be Mother's day everyday.
I love you very much!
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Mama Rita,
Thank you for always being there, Mama. Happy Mother's Day!
Kobe & Niki

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NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBERS	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Marites Ariola Daisy Lou Ariola Mary Rose Ariola	Unknown	Ricardo P. Ariola SS # 08-0166003-4	May 22, 2002
2) Carmen & Andrita	Not Indicated	Ernesto Arruejo SS # 03-1439194-2	December 4, 2000
3) Norma Camunay	Tagum City	Edilberto A. Basalo SS # 09-0653622-5	October 20, 2002
4) Felisa V. Borcelis	Wills Bakery, National Road, Cainta, Rizal	Romeo A. Borcelis SS # 03-8081184-1	August 2, 2000
5) Nora Garra 2002	155-D 15th Avenue East Rembo, Makati City	Jesus Borromeo SS # 03-2954858-6	November 21,
6) Editha Braquit	Embarcadero, Brgy. Manalad, Ilog, Negros, Occidental	Bonifacio Braquil SS # 07-1444511-3	September 2, 2000
7) Elvira A. Brazil	Unknown	Hermenigildo Brazil SS # 03-1441808-7	October 19, 2002
8) Rodilla Barros Caliño Renante Caliño	Sta. Cruz, Tagaloan, Misamis Oriental	Pablito S. Caliño SS # 08-0351547-5	March 20, 2003
9) Ricardo de Castro	Namabbalan Norte, Tuguegarao City 3500 Cagayan	Rommel de Castro SS # 01-1451047-3	November 20, 2002
10) Nely Leyson	Unknown	Silvestre Delos Reyes SS # 03-0024189-9	January 12, 2003
11) Leoncia Ernacio	Unknown	Julio Gatdula SS # 03-3969599-5	February 7, 2003
12) Marlyn Gopez	826 M. Javier St., San Juan Cainta, Rizal	Avelino Gopez SS # 03-3884258-7	December 24, 2002
13) Merinda Pelaez	Unknown	Domingo Gustilo SS # 07-0717471-8	June 23, 2002
14) Leticia Jimenez	Bagong Silangan, Quezon City Rd. 4 Sitio Kamanoy	Adan N. Jimenez SS # 05-0164952-0	February 27, 2002
15) Rolando Raymundo Bedana	Unknown	Lydia Q. Melencio SS # 33-1335532-6	November 13, 2002
16) Amralos, Ferozie, Frinzie & Justito	Las Piñas, Metro Manila	Eduardo D. Natata SS # 03-7848764-3	May 5, 1999
17) Estrella Gravoso/ Leonel	Tacloban	Lope Obregoso SS # 03-3698248-1	November 20, 2002
18) Annaliza G. Orbase	Malhacan, Meycauayan Bulacan	Nestor Orbase SS # 01-0145520-8	August 23, 2002
19) Milagros	Unknown	Pedro Palafox SS # 03-0862386-2	July 29, 2002
20) Zenaida Paraggua	Aparri, Cagayan	Roberto Paraggua SS # 01-0184651-6	December 22, 2000
21) Dionisio Paras	Tanyag, Taguig, Metro Manila	Nancy M. Paras SS # 33-3013511-8	July 19, 2001
22) Bani & Delfin Jr.	Olongapo City	Delfin Pineda SS # 07-0475333-6	April 30, 2002
23) Erlinda Lazo Randy Sabenorio	Maabuhay St., Tondo Manila	Rodrigo Sabenorio SS # 03-3545470-3	April 21, 2001
24) Dorothy Angeles	1599 Alvarez Oeaste, Sta. Cruz, Manila	Pedro S. Santos SS # 03-3758518-8	October 3, 2002
25) Placida L. Tamayo	Unknown	Gerardo Tamayo SS # 03-1240898-9	June 28, 2000
26) Joselito Tolentino	Bulacan	Edmundo G. Tolentino SS # 03-3368939-2	October 19, 2002
27) Eduardo Torcuator	Oroquieta St., C.M. Recto Sta. Cruz, Manila	Divina M. Torcuator SS # 03-9717978-3	November 25, 2002
28) Julie Vacunawa	Makati, Rizal	Osias M. Vacunawa SS # 03-2480200-7	June 22, 2002
29) Aurora M. Ortiz	San Juan, Sto. Tomas Batangas	Alfredo Velasco SS # 04-0335669-4	February 3, 2003
30) Ma. Lina S. Villaruel	Unknown	Glesserge S. Villaruel SS # 03-2044936-7	January 26, 2003

(PDI - April 26, 2003)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY,
APRIL 26, 2003

OBITUARIES

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The Board of Directors and
the Management and Staff of

LA TONDEÑA DISTILLERS, INC.

express their sincerest condolences to the family of

CARLOS MIGUEL B. PALANCA

who peacefully joined the Creator
on April 22, 2003 at the age of 43.

Please join us in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

ESTEBAN C. DE VERA SR.

December 26, 1919 – April 22, 2003
of Baliuag, Bulacan

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on April 22, 2003 at the age of 83.

His bereaved wife **FELISA M. VALENCIA**; children **ROMY** and **LITA**, **JR** and **INE**, **NARCING** and **BABY**, **LITO**, and **LINA**, **PAUL** and **NELIA**, **KHALID** and **MELDA**, **AMANG**, grandchildren and great grandchildren; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence in Barangay Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan.

Interment today, Saturday, April 26, 2003
at 2:00 p.m. at Baliuag Memorial Park.
Sto. Cristo, Baliuag, Bulacan.

DELIA LIM DIÑO

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 18, 2003
in Seattle, Washington USA at the age of 79.

She is survived by her sisters **Lilian**, **Rina & husband Eduardo**; brother **Romeo** & wife **Susan**; sisters-in-law **Carmen & Cleofe**, nephews & nieces **Daisy**, **Elden**, **Edwin**, **Rafaelito**, **Jo-Ann**, **Joy**, **Liza**, **Lorraine**, **Rachel**, **Jot**, **Nell**, **Ronald**, **Rosanne & Edsel**, and grandchildren.

Viewing will be in the afternoon of April 26, 2003 at the De Guzman Memorial Chapel, 343 Dr. J.P. Rizal St., Sto. Niño, Marikina City. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on April 29, 2003.

Interment follows at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

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103 years

KATHLEEN B. BERMEJO

Peacefully joined her Creator on
April 24, 2003 at the age of 80.

Her cremated remains have been
brought to Chapel L,
Loyola Memorial Chapels
in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday,
April 27, 2003 after the 5:00 p.m.
Mass in Chapel L.

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"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

DEATH NOTICES

Jesus M. Jhocson D. Ed.

Died April 23, 2003 at the age of 83.

His remains lie in state at the
Nacional University Social Hall.

Interment tomorrow, Sunday
at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Jesus Godinez Fumar

Died April 23, 2003.

His body lies in state at Rizal Funeral
Homes, Libertad St., Pasay City.

Interment tomorrow, Sunday at
Sargento Mariano Cemetery, Pasay City.

Catalina Delapuz Lim

Died April 23, 2003 at the age of 84.

Her remains lie in peace at
Funeraria Paz,
G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment to be announced later.

Mario B. Benoza

Died April 23, 2003 at the age of 61.

His remains lie in state at Arlington
Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment tomorrow, Sunday,
at South Cemetery.

UNISUN GROUP OF COMPANIES CELEBRATES ITS 20TH YEAR: The UNISUN GROUP OF COMPANIES celebrated its 20th anniversary held at Brooks Street Bloomingdale Subdivision Angono, Rizal last February 1, 2003. To date, the Unisun is involved in real estate, financing and retail businesses. In real estate it has one shopping complex, eleven (11) memorial parks and nine (9) subdivision projects.

Memorial Parks

Holy Gardens Memorial Park	San Isidro Angono, Rizal
Holy Gardens Memorial Park	Manila East Road Taytay, Rizal
Holy Gardens Valley Memorial Park	Sumulong Hi-way Antipolo City
Holy Gardens Evergreen Memorial Park	San Pascual, Batangas
Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park	Calamba, Laguna
Holy Gardens Matutum Memorial Park	Plomolok South Cotabato
Holy Gardens Oton Memorial Park	Bgy. Trapiche Oton, Iloilo
Holy Gardens Pangasinan Memorial Park	San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park	San Fernando City, La Union
Holy Gardens Cemetery	Lower Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila
Holy Gardens Bacolod Memorial Park	Granada Road, Bacolod City

Subdivisions

Montevilla Subdivision	Bilibiran, Binangonan, Rizal
Mirasole Subdivision	Batingan, Binangonan, Rizal
Sunnyvale I, II, III & IV Subdivision	Pantok, Binangonan, Rizal
Wespointe Subdivision	Mahabang Parang, Binangonan, Rizal
Montevideo I – II Subdivision	Mambog, Binangonan, Rizal

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Shown in the photo are the employees and the managing directors Mr. Amado Victor U. Saguinsin, Ms. Ma. Teresa U. Saguinsin, Ms. Aileen L. Niones, Ms. Gladdy Hernandez and Mr. Jorge U. Saguinsin. Inserted is Mrs. Teresita U. Saguinsin, founder of Unisun.

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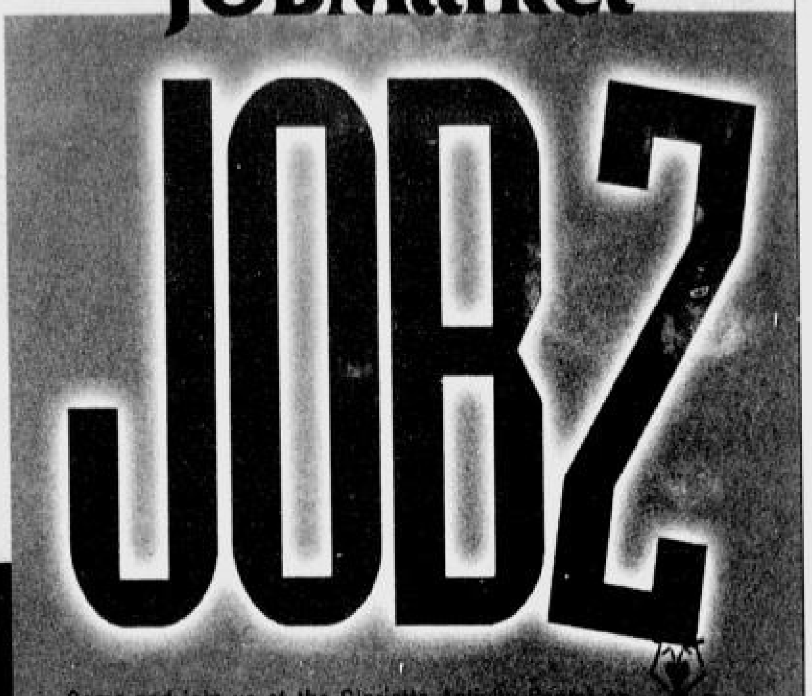

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OBITUARIES

"The Lord is my light and my salvation"
Psalm 27

Our Dearly Beloved

DOMINADOR LABNAO LABONG

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 22, 2003
at the age of 72

His loving children **Marietta, Rodolfo, Yolando, Cleotilde, Cristina, Esther, Khristie Ivan** and **Angelita**; In-laws **Estrellita, Helen** and **Ariel**; and his Grandchildren **Rod Carlo, Rod Paulo, Eya, Eiza, Casimira, Christian Yul, Christopher Yul, Chrisanto, Chelsea, John Louies, Nicolai, Patricia**, and **Ysabelle**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Don Bosco Chapel, Pasay Road, Makati City. Mass will be celebrated at **9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 29, 2003**. Interment follows at the Makati Cemetery, Kalayaan Street, Makati City.

"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come. " Psalm 23:6

In Memory of our Beloved

LOURDES MONEDA YSLA

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 22, 2003 at the age of 83.

She is survived by her children, Natividad, Elda and Renato Zurbito, Angel and Teresita Ramon; sisters, Ergenia, Natividad; grandchildren, Rainier, Ricella, Riza, Angel Jr., Gerald Ian; cousins, nephews and nieces and other grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

We, her family and all her other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on April 30, 2003, 10 a.m.
at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

"Sweet Ada with the dangling pigtails...
is the little woman with great virtues."

CONRADA DIONICIO GARCIA

February 19, 1917 – April 25, 2003

Joined her Creator and her husband George Jr.
on April 25, 2003, after receiving the last Sacraments

Ma will always be cherished by her children:
Greg & Moins, Susan & Tito, Sarah & Chique,
Dennis & Pam, Rene & Vali, Sandra, Gina

Grandchildren: Cherish & Reg, Joonee, Em-em & Danny,
Toti & Rica, Jaja & David, Chicklet & Josh, Louie Boy,
Angela, Paolo, Isabel, Anna & Eug, George, Kat, Andrew

Great grandchildren: Jake, Shawn, Sarah & Pepi

... and her sister, Naty.

She lies in state at Capilla del Senor,
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park
on Tuesday, April 29, after the 9AM Mass
at Sanctuario de San Antonio

TOURISM, RETAILING HIT

SARS deals new blow to flagging world economy

ESTEE LAUDER

A passenger, wearing a surgical mask to protect herself from SARS, shops at a perfume counter at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia. Senior officials from Southeast Asian countries as well as China, Hong Kong and the World Health Organization opened talks in Malaysia Friday on ways to halt the spread of SARS virus. AP

PARIS—Top economists warned on Thursday that the SARS epidemic could sap world economic recovery, as scenes of panic erupted in Beijing over the spread of the virus.

With Asian economies reeling from the impact of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), world tourism and travel industries were also measuring the damaging effects of the virus.

The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) warned on Thursday the pneumonia-like disease could have a serious economic impact on affected countries and sectors if the crisis escalates.

The SARS outbreak has already pushed stock prices down, hit world airlines, Asian tourism and retailing, the OECD said in its biannual Economic Outlook.

The OECD report added that the virus' full economic impact would depend largely on how promptly and effectively it can be brought under control.

There is currently no cure or vaccine for the disease, which emerged in China's southern Guangdong province in November before spreading to some 25 countries, infecting some 4,500 people and killing 261.

The worst-hit countries are China, Canada, Singapore, Vietnam and Taiwan.

World Bank economists warned Thursday that the SARS epidemic could wipe out growth altogether in Hong Kong this year, where there have been 1,488 reported cases of the disease causing 109 deaths, unless it is quickly curbed.

In an updated outlook for the region, the World Bank also warned that the outbreak could affect manufacturing in China, which reported 2,422 cases and 110 deaths from the disease.

The World Bank's chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific, Homi Kharas, said the negative impact on growth in Hong Kong and China could reach two percent.

Despite a relatively small number of deaths, the World Bank said short-term "economic consequences arise almost entirely from public perceptions and fears about the disease".

In a bid to stave off a recession, the Hong Kong government has unveiled a 11.8-billion-Hong Kong-dollar ($1.5-billion) relief package, but the measures will sharply drive up the country's budget deficit.

For Asia as a whole, the World Bank has cut its 2003 growth forecast to about 5 percent, after 5.8 percent last year, notably because of the destabilizing effect of the US-led war in Iraq and the SARS outbreak.

A scenario looking at the impact on directly affected activities such as tourism, transport and the retail industry, suggested the impact of SARS could reduce regional growth by 0.3 percent.

Standard Chartered Bank issued a report saying the epidemic would knock off at least $16.5 billion, or 0.7 percent, from the gross domestic product of East Asian economies, with China and Hong Kong set to suffer the most. *AFP*

US Fed still optimistic on economy

NEW YORK—Two top officials from the Federal Reserve on Thursday offered optimistic outlooks on the US economy for the rest of the year, suggesting they saw no need for further policy easing at this time.

Still, they also recognized dangers to growth going forward and cautioned that the Fed may not have enough information by its next policy meeting on May 6 to reinstate its balance of risks assessment of the economy.

In March, the Fed took the highly unusual step of dropping the assessment, saying it could not usefully characterize the outlook because because of "the unusually large uncertainties clouding the geopolitical situation."

Without that guidance, financial markets will be even more in the dark than usual about the near-term outlook for interest rates, and some analysts suspect this may be a prelude for the Fed dropping the bias altogether.

Fed Governor Ben Bernanke, clearly the more upbeat of the two Fed officials, said he expects the economy to grow by 3.5 to 4 percent in the second half of the year if business spending picks up.

"I expect second-half growth of 3.5 to 4 percent and next year 4 percent GDP growth or better," Bernanke told reporters after giving a speech at the Forecasters Club in New York. Gross Domestic Product slowed to just 1.4 percent annualized in the last months of 2002 but figures out on Friday are expected to show growth picked up to around 2.3 percent in the first quarter.

Chicago Federal Reserve President Michael Moskow sang a softer tune, saying "the most likely outcome" was that the economy would gain momentum as the year progressed.

Moskow cited strong productivity growth and accommodative monetary policy as reasons to upbeat, but he also spent much time time dwelling on the dangers to recovery. *Reuters*

China's largest retail group launched

SHANGHAI—Shanghai has formally brought four of its largest retailers under a single umbrella, creating China's top retailer with annual revenues of more than 70 billion yuan ($8.5 billion), a government official said on Friday.

Analysts said the alliance would arm local retailers for a battle with overseas rivals, posing a challenge to the likes of Carrefour AG or Walmart Stores .

The newly born conglomerate, Bailian Group, commands more than 28 billion yuan in assets and its distribution outlets span more than 20 provinces across China, the official added.

"It's too early to tell how the new group would affect our business, but we expect it to bring us lower operating costs and more leverage when bargaining with suppliers," a Hualian executive told Reuters on Friday.

Bailian may also help streamline the city's oversaturated retail arena, where dozens of supermarkets and convenience store chains have sprung up over the past two years—all fighting over a generally stable population of 16 million.

Adding to the mix are a slew of foreign retailers planning aggressive expansions in China, eyeing the largest retail market in Asia after Japan.

Carrefour, the world's second largest retailer after US-based Walmart, has opened more than 20 stores across China since the mid-1990s.

Its discount shop arm, Dia Group, has signed pacts with domestic partners to open about 300 stores each in Beijing and Shanghai over the next two to four years.

Wal-mart, which has 26 outlets in China, is also talking with a domestic company about the possibility of leasing outlet space in Shanghai, China's commercial hub, by 2005.

"It will be harder for small- to medium-sized firms to survive after the market opens to foreigners," said analyst Yuan Jianjun at Huaxia Securities.

"The economies of scale enjoyed by a big group would benefit its subsidiaries in the long term," he said. *Reuters*

American Air ousts CEO, bankruptcy still looms

CHICAGO/DALLAS—American Airlines ousted its Chief Executive Don Carty on Thursday after employees rebelled over his failure to disclose executive bonuses and pensions, and sources said the world's largest airline may still file for bankruptcy within days.

In a stunning move that followed sharp criticism of Carty's silence about executive perks while workers were accepting deep wage cuts, AMR Corp., the parent of American Airlines, said it was replacing him with current president and chief operating officer Gerard Arpey.

"The AMR Board of Directors accepted the resignation of CEO and Chairman Don Carty today," AMR said in a statement.

"The board named Edward A. Brennan as executive chairman and current president and COO Gerard J. Arpey as the new chief executive officer."

Brennan, 69, is the retired chairman, president and CEO of Sears, Roebuck and Co.. Arpey, 44, has devoted his entire professional career to American Airlines, where he began as a financial analyst in 1982 and became a corporate officer in 1989, the company said.

American Airlines may still file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in New York within days, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The sources said the timing depends on whether the flight attendants, who have been reluctant to endorse deep pay cuts, go ahead and accept the concessions.

The airline's board was ready to file for bankruptcy on Friday, the sources said, but decided upon advice of lawyers to give flight attendants one more shot at accepting concessions, delaying a filing most likely until Monday.

It was still possible the airline could avoid a quick bankruptcy filing if the flight attendants approve the cuts, the sources cautioned.

If American does seek court protection, it would be the largest bankruptcy filing in airline history, outstripping that of No. 2 carrier UAL Corp.'s United Airlines last December.

The other two major unions at American—pilots and mechanical workers—said on Thursday they agreed to certify their votes on wage concessions after getting changes from the company that would alter profit-sharing terms, reduce the terms of the deal to five years from almost six years and allow the contracts to be open for renegotiation after three years.

The flight attendants union did not agree to the changes by a deadline on Thursday afternoon, sources said.

AMR is likely to give that labor group until Monday to reach a decision to certify a vote, they said, although the situation is fluid.

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants said it has been meeting with the new CEO Arpey, who asked to have discussions with the group's leadership, union spokesman George Price said. *Reuters*

Securing the fu
Pursuing a Vision.
Building Dreams.
Emilia C. Estrada
Sales Counselor
Simeon H. Recio
Sales Counselor
Martin G. Sales, Jr.
Sales Counselor
Nenita M. Manalo
Sales Counselor
Raquel E. Marasigan
Sales Counselor
Merla L. Recio
Unit Manager
SALES COUNSELORS (From Left to Right): Daniel R. Leycano, Mercedes C. Garcia, Alicia S. Alviar, Fredy P. Gonzales, Lawrence Joseph Y. Ycaro
UNIT MANAGERS (From Left to Right): M
Alan Martin T. Bautista
FB Bautista
General Insurance Company, Philam Savings Bank, Inc., Philam Plans, Philam Care Health Systems Inc., Philam Properties Corporation, Philam Asset Management, Inc., Philam Systems, Inc., Philam Insurance
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OPEC cuts production to stabilize oil prices

VIENNA—Trying to keep oil prices from collapsing after the end of the Iraq war, OPEC said Thursday it would cut its output by two million barrels a day (bpd) from June and might even reduce production further.

But the cut in Opec's current production level of 27.4 million bpd to 25.4 million bpd as of June 1 also creates a new, higher quota for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Qatar Oil Minister and OPEC President Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah told a news conference after the cartel's one-day meeting in Vienna.

The rise in the quota to 25.4 million bpd was a surprise since Opec had been expected to maintain the current quota, which is 900,000 bpd lower at 24.5 million bpd.

Opec states have not respected this quota as they flooded the market with oil to keep prices under control when the Iraq war loomed earlier this year and a strike in Venezuela increased fears of shortfalls in oil supply.

Al-Attiyah said Opec was trying to be "pragmatic" in its handling of the world oil market.

Washington had this week urged Opec to keep the oil flowing in order not to suffocate an already sluggish world economy, further hurt by a mystery virus spreading from Asia.

In London, oil prices fell to a five-month low despite the Opec pledge to curb daily output by two million barrels.

The price of benchmark Brent North Sea crude oil for June delivery fell 66 cents per barrel to 23.60 dollars in late trading, the lowest level since mid-November.

"People were expecting Opec to keep quotas unchanged and try to reduce output from current high levels down to 24.5 million bpd," said Barclays Capital analyst Orrin Middleton.

"Now they are going to reduce the oversupply in a way, but they have completely surprised the market by the increase in quotas of 900,000 bpd and that will be perceived as being bearish," he said.

Al-Attiyah said he hoped the cut would be enough to keep oil prices from falling below 22 dollars a barrel, the bottom of the Opec target range of 22-28 dollars per barrel.

Iraq is now assumed to be producing zero oil, according to production figures for April, and the reduction is to be carried out by the 10 other Opec states, Al-Attiyah said.

He said he could not predict when Iraq would resume exporting oil but that he hoped this would be soon, and that Opec would then re-set its production figures to take Iraq into account.

"I hope Iraq comes back tomorrow... I would like to see an Iraqi oil minister come to attend our meeting," Al-Attiyah said.

He said the Opec meeting Thursday was "the first time Opec has in the last 40 years met without Iraq." The United States, which occupies Iraq along with British forces, said it was not sending a representative to the Opec meeting since such an envoy should come from a new Iraq government yet to be formed.

Iraq had been producing up to 2.5 million bpd before the war started on March 20, with Opec's overall production in both February and March at about 27.4 million bpd including 1.9 million bpd from Iraq, Al-Attiyah said.

US forces already have Iraqi production up and running for domestic consumption but have not said when or how much will be available for export.

Al-Attiyah said the new Opec quota of 25.4 million bpd was "temporary" and could be changed when Opec meets in Doha in June.

Opec ministers said in a joint statement that they would "continue closely monitoring the market, in particular the timing and level of the expected recovery in Iraqi oil production".

Al-Attiyah said Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, which is now producing 9.1 million bpd, would cut production to 8.25 million bpd.

The Opec joint statement said "oversupply was expected" in the world oil market because of the "impact of continued sluggishness of the world economy and SARS on demand for oil".

The outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in countries including China and Hong Kong has triggered fears of a new slowdown in Asia's economy. *AFP*

Asian stocks slide on SARS scare, Sony

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks crumbled on Friday, hitting a 20-year low in Japan and tumbling four percent in South Korea, on a combination of worries about SARS, North Korea's claim to have nuclear weapons and weak Sony earnings.

Bonds firmed on the slide in stocks and weak Japanese economic data, which also weighed on the yen.

Oil prices edged up as traders puzzled over a surprise decision by the OPEC cartel to raise official production quotas.

Japan's Nikkei stock average hit a fresh 20-year low as investors shunned shares in Sony Corp., refusing to buy the stock at all after it posted weak results.

"To be perfectly honest, it's the Sony shock," said Masayoshi Yano, senior manager of investment information at Tokai Tokyo Securities.

"We have to worry about the effect it is going to have by raising questions about how other earnings will turn out."

A fall in US stocks after lackluster earnings forecasts along with worries about the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome also weighed on sentiment.

The Nikkei closed the morning session down more than two percent to 7,685.28, just above a 20-year intraday low reached during the morning session.

Sony was untraded with a glut of sell orders at 3,220 yen, down more than 13 percent from Thursday. After the close the world's top consumer-electronics maker shocked investors by falling far short of earnings targets and warning profits would fall further.

"If Sony breaks 3,200, it could well go to 2,500-2,600...from a valuations standpoint," said Hiroyuki Nakai, chief strategist at Tokai Tokyo Securities.

South Korea's KOSPI benchmark sank 4.2 percent to a three-week low after US sources told Reuters that North Korea had admitted to having nuclear weapons.

SARS worries weighed on shares across much of the region, wiping two percent off the Taiwan market and 0.7 percent off Singapore.

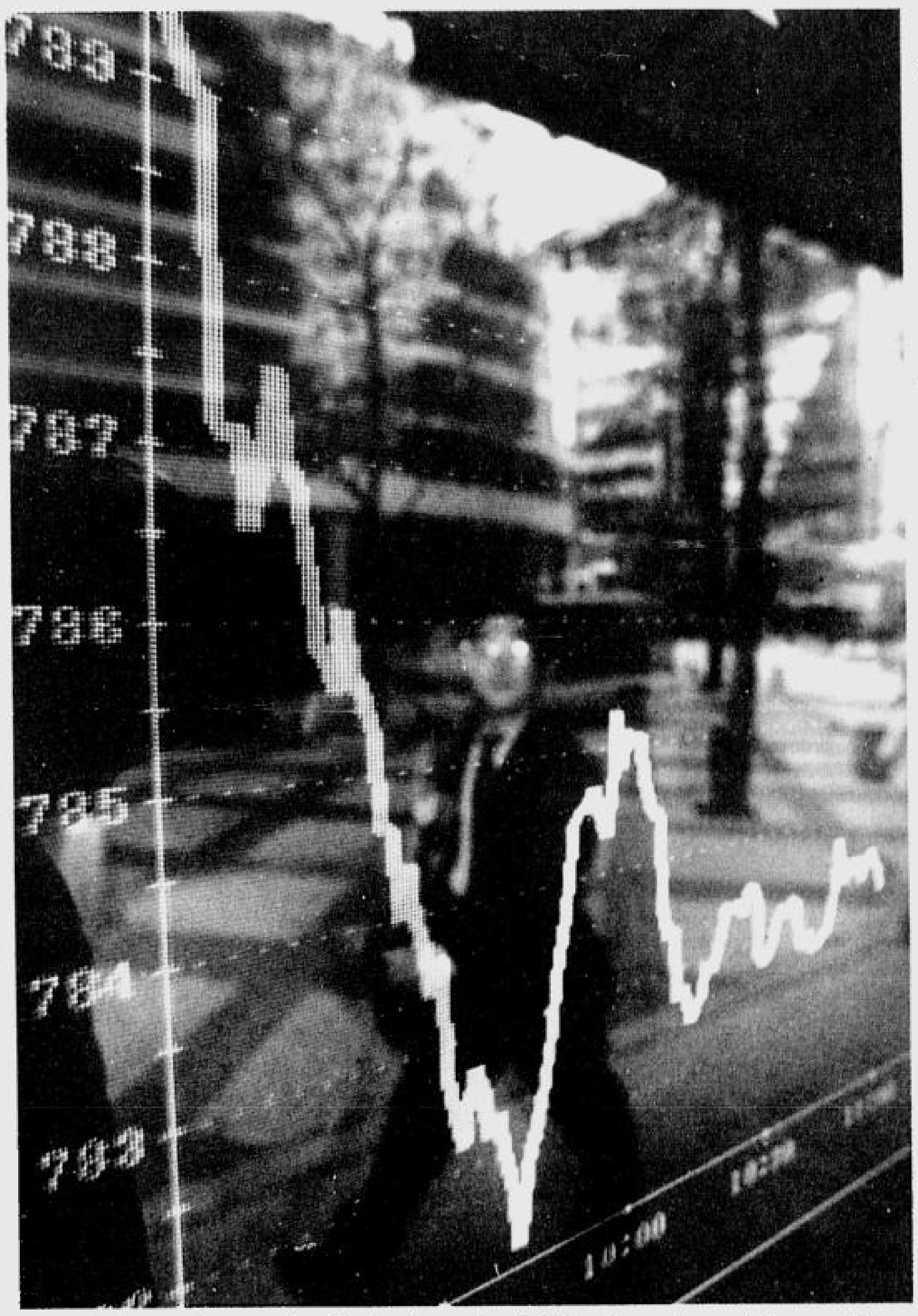
Hong Kong investors, gloomy about the SARS outbreak, sent the territory's Hang Seng index down one percent to a fresh four-and-a-half-year low.

The slide in stocks propelled investors into safe-haven bonds, sending the yield on 10-year Japanese government bonds to a record low of 0.610 percent. A rise in Japan's unemployment rate also helped the debt market by providing fresh evidence of economic troubles.

The yen was under pressure for similar reasons, weakening against the dollar to 120 yen from 119.87 in late US trade.

The North Korean news also made investors reluctant to hold the currency of Japan, which is seen threatened by the communist nation's nuclear ambitions. The euro held near a four-year high against the yen.

US Treasuries rose on concern over the impact of SARS in East Asia and a rise in US weekly jobless claims to a year high. *Reuters*



A stock index graph on a monitor display shows a drop in Tokyo share prices outside a securities brokerage in Tokyo. Japan's Nikkei average hit a fresh 20-year low on Friday. REUTERS

Japan's giants enjoy rebound in earnings

TOKYO—Hi-tech titans Toshiba and Fujitsu said Friday they swung back into profit or shrank losses in the year to March helped by stronger demand in Asia, and pledged more growth this year despite global uncertainties.

Smaller Japanese electronics makers Sharp, Pioneer and Kyocera said camera-equipped mobile phones and DVD recorders powered their earnings, but rival Sanyo plunged into the red due to losses on stockholdings.

Toshiba Corp.'s net profit came to 18.5 billion yen ($154.2 million) last financial year against a loss of 254.0 billion yen a year earlier.

Pre-tax profit reached 53.1 billion yen, reversing a 376.7 billion yen loss previously, while revenue grew 4.9 percent to 5.66 trillion yen.

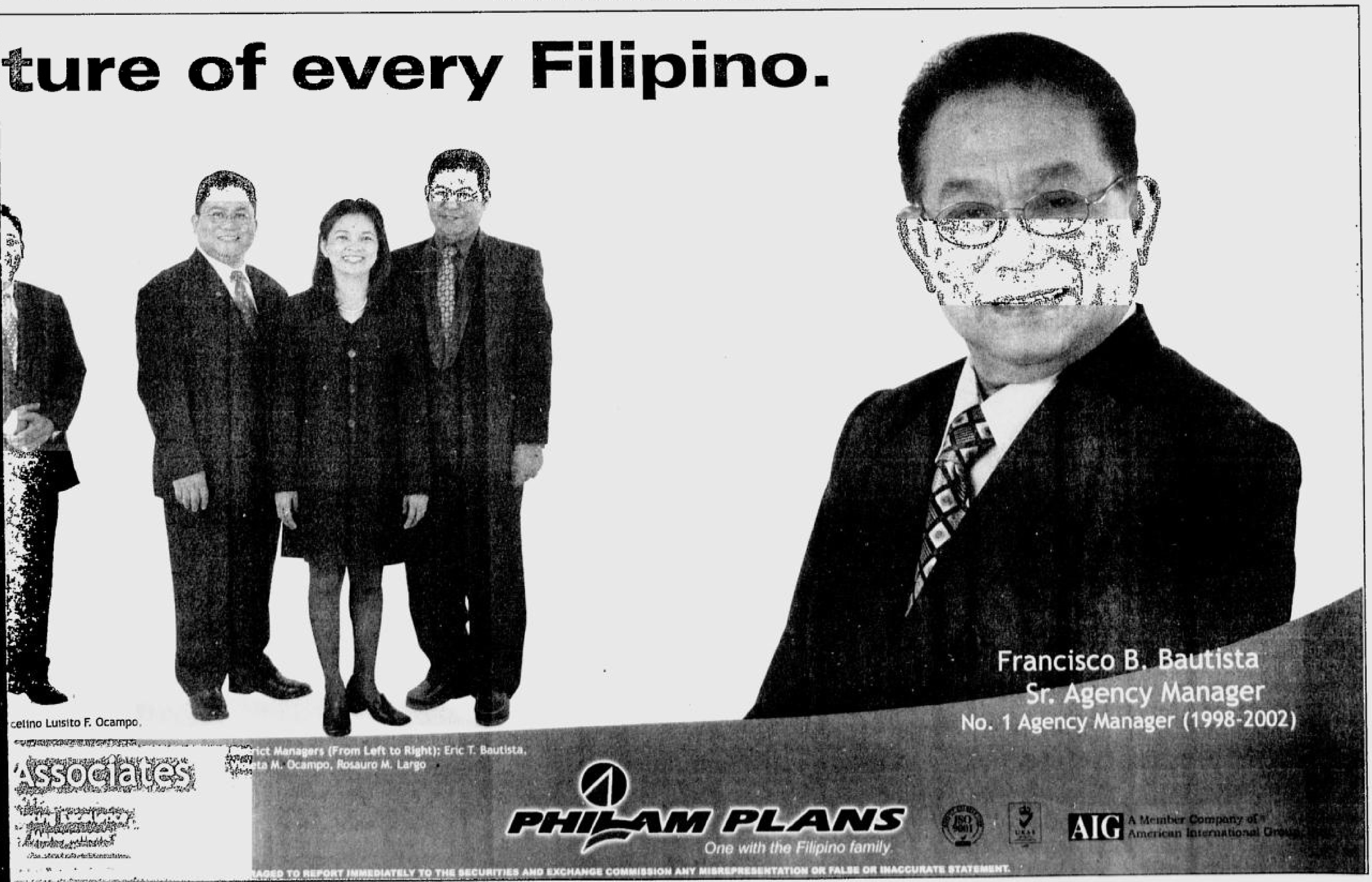
"Increased sales of digital devices for consumers, and economic growth in the Asian region helped increase sales of semiconductors and electronic devices," said company vice president Kiyoaki Shimagami.

"Profit-wise, the effect of restructuring and the growth of the semiconductor business helped significantly," he told a news conference.

Rival Fujitsu Ltd. said its net loss shrank by two-thirds in the year to March and announced its president would step down, reportedly to take responsibility for two straight years in the red.

The net loss at Japan's largest computer maker shrank to 122.1 billion yen from a 382.5 billion yen loss last year, while recurring profit recovered to 12.4 billion yen, compared with a year-before loss of 157.1 billion yen.

But revenue fell 7.8 percent to 4.62 trillion yen as restructuring costs and a one-off charge related to faulty magnetic disks ate into the bottom line. *AFP*


ture of every Filipino.
Associates
PHILAM PLANS
One with the Filipino family.
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UKAS
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celino Luisito F. Ocampo.

rict Managers (From Left to Right): Eric T. Bautista, eta M. Ocampo, Rosauro M. Largo

Francisco B. Bautista
Sr. Agency Manager
No. 1 Agency Manager (1998-2002)

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Milo Summer Sports Clinics: Making champions out of kids

CELEBRATING its 20th year, the Milo Summer Sports Clinics are in full swing as children say goodbye to the school year, with 14 sports instruction programs designed for kids and teens in badminton, basketball, bowling, chess, football, gymnastics, ice skating, karatedo, lawn tennis, table tennis, taekwondo, squash, swimming and volleyball.

The country's most respected summer program offers children, from the age of three onwards, opportunities to learn the sports of their choice during the long vacation. Not only that, it makes champions out of kids, even if not always in the literal sense of winning competitions.

A SPORT that involves quick thinking and fast movements, Squash will certainly stimulate agility and stamina in its players.

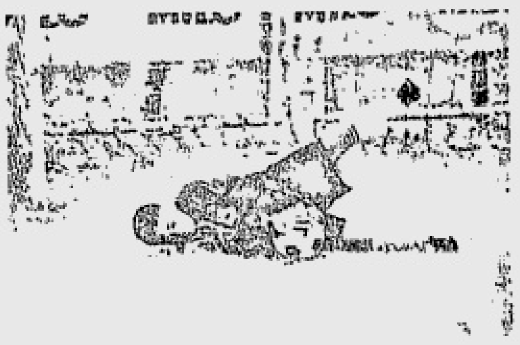
The Milo Summer Sports Clinics teach children the basics of different sports with professional and scientific programs conducted by qualified coaches and instructors. Parents, and participants who join the programs, are assured that their summer is well spent and worth the effort.

Aiming to provide the best of what each sport has to offer, Milo makes sure that the clinics are at par with current trends. Equipment and training techniques are updated every year to conform to international standards.

A good example is the Milo Best Center, Asia's first and most successful scientific school for basketball. Nic Jorge, founder of the distinguished school, notes that the coaches are fully abreast on the latest basketball trends. Moreover, Milo Best offers a more comprehensive package compared to other basketball programs. The clinic provides students not only proper training but also experience, by enabling them to participate in tournaments, both national and international.

Coaches have a big impact on the motivational environment in which students learn and play. They have a considerable influence on the student's mindset and behavior. For instance, coaching that emphasizes winning as the primary goal can promote dishonesty and selfishness. Proper coaching reinforces personal improvement and the mastery of tasks, therefore bringing a dimension of positive values to learning.

Thus, the Milo Summer Sports Clinics emphasize teaching not only techniques but also helpful values to students that guide what they do.


A MILO Football Clinic student manages to block a ball from making a successful goal

Character building is probably one of the most valuable benefits of the Milo Summer Sports Clinics. Encouraging kids to learn discipline, to respect themselves and others, to strive according to the best of their abilities rather than simply wanting to win, to practice patience, determination, and humility, to work effectively with others, to develop confidence - the program helps participants learn the attitudes they need to become well-rounded individuals.

Kathleen Balquiedra, a student of Elizabeth College, can attest to the benefits of the Milo Summer Sports Clinics beyond the learning of physical skills. Having competed in two National Capital Regional Amateur Swimming Association (NCR ASA) Invitational, this young athlete talks about values learned. "Learning swimming under the program is fun because I gained friends and got stronger everyday," she says. "But aside from increasing my competitive edge, I also learned the value of sportsmanship and friendship even in competition. It also taught me that academics come first."

Paolo Angeles of Don Bosco Makati is glad to have joined the Milo Taekwondo Clinic, because, he says, it taught him to hold his head high even in defeat. "At times, I feel down when I don't win, but I accept it and resolve to do better next time," he declares.

Nestlé
MILO
FROM head to foot, the instructor monitors the stance of his Karatedo students.

Many alumni have gone on greater heights after training with the Milo Summer Sports Clinics. Among them is Nestor Celestino Jr., a graduate of the Milo Tennis Clinic. Having started training at the tender age of eight, JR, as friends fondly call him, eventually became a member of the Junior National Team, and in his category has ranked among the top 15 in Asia in the International Tennis Federation.

Mark Noel Felix Pascua, a Milo Best student, has progressed in his favorite sport, having been chosen one of 15 boys to represent the Philippine in the 1999 Easter Classic Tournament in Las Vegas.

The Milo Summer Sports Clinics are part of a long-term commitment of the country's most popular chocolate energy drink to encourage young people to get into sports, to develop not only their athletic competence but to help them succeed in life.

So give your kids the chance to learn how to become champions, on and off the playing field, through the Milo Summer Sports Clinics. For more information, call 746-6456 or visit www.milo.com.ph.

LOAN SIGNING CEREMONY

Metrobank, the country's largest bank, recently granted P1billion, 5-year term loan to Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. (AEV). Sealing the agreement with a handshake is Metrobank's senior executive vice president Samuel Yap (right) and AEV executive vice president and chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz. According to Aboitiz, the proceeds of the loan will be used to finance AEV's increased ownership in WG&A, a leading domestic shipping company in the country. The Aboitiz family purchased the shares of the Chiongbians and the Gothongs in WG&A last October 2002. Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. is publicly-listed holding and investment management company of the Aboitiz Group.

Join the ultimate adventure

How would you like to venture into uncharted mountains, rappel down a dizzying slope, race through rocky platforms, and then swim in the icy cold waters of a mystical cave?

Or maybe you'd like a swim in the mud or a roller coaster ride atop a passenger jeepney perilously crossing a wide river dotted with huge boulders?

How about being a daredevil for a few seconds of your precious life and bike downhill at 40-60 kph between trees and ravines?

Still not challenging enough?

How about doing it all in three days, with only your wit and brawn and some bare essentials?

Del Monte Philippines, in coordination with GamePlan, has recently announced the beginning of the great annual expedition – the second Del Monte Great 202 Quest. Organizers of this once-in-a-lifetime adventure are now accepting male and female applicant adventure-seekers, ages 18 to 35 years old.

This year, the eight chosen finalists, together with Gameplan's hosts, will tackle bigger and tougher challenges, racing non-stop for three (3) days in one of the most majestic places in the country. The team that outplays the rest will win the grand prize of P100,000 plus Nike Gift certificates.

To join, send your bio-data along with a full body picture and four (4) 202 Del Monte labels plus a short essay answering the question "Do you have what it takes to join the Great 202 Quest?" Mail your entries to P.O. Box 1977 Makati Central Post Office 1259 Makati City, Philippines or drop them at dropboxes at the following addresses: Campaigns & Grey -- Great 202 Quest, 12th Floor Valero Tower, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; or Gameplan -- Great 202 Quest, 13 Matipid St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission of entries is on April 28, 2003. The four exciting episodes will be shown on GamePlan, June 21 and 28, July 5 and 12, 7 pm on Studio 23. For details, call: 922-9273 or see posters, flyers, and print ads. You can likewise log on to www.gameplan23.com for more information.

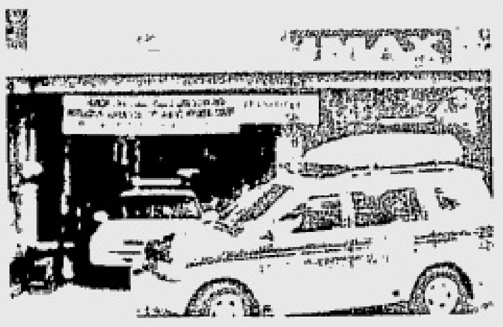
MEGA
SARDINES

MEGA SARDINES IN SHANGHAI EXHIBIT

Mega Sardines, the country's fastest growing brand of sardines, was one of the Philippine-made products featured in 'Ties that Bind', the first Philippine solo exhibition in Shanghai. Photo shows Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Jose De Venecia proudly showing off world-class Mega Sardines. Joining the Speaker is Congressman Harry C. Angping and Ms Michelle Tiu Lim Chan of Mega Fishing Corp. Mega Sardines is now being exported to Hong Kong, Brunei, the US, UK, Italy and Central America. It is guaranteed fresh, from catching to canning and contains Omega 3.

Product FILES

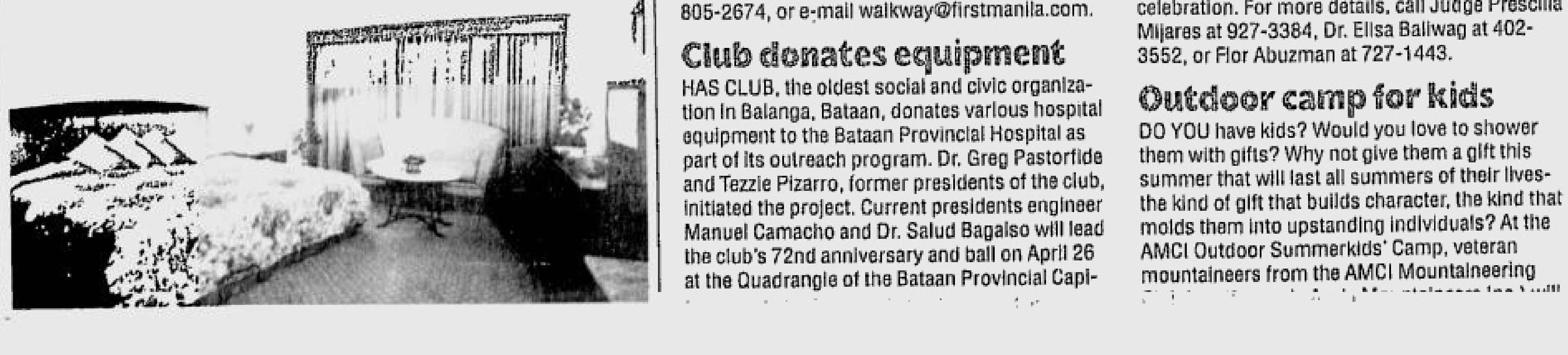
Thule now available at Autobacs



THULE of Sweden, one of the world's best automotive roof rack system is now available at Autobacs accessories center. Located at 30 G/H/I Banawe St., Q.C., Autobacs is an authorized dealer of genuine Thule roof racks such as the Lappland, Xplorer, Standard and Titan. Autobacs also sell Thule bike carriers and roof boxes such as Thule Vision, Evolution, Polar, North Cape and the X1. Shown in photo is an Isuzu Crosswind fitted with a Thule X1 Roof Box. For inquiries about how to maximize the load capacity of your car, AUV and SUV, visit or call Autobacs at 741-1947 and 712-0389.

Dusit Hotel's Easter room package

FAMILIES can spend quality time together without spending a fortune with Dusit Hotel Nikko's Easter room package. For only P2,500 net, an overnight stay can mean happy bonding to a family (two kids and two adults) with buffet breakfast for two. Kids availing of the Easter room package can also join the Easter drawing contest where they will interpret the theme 'Easter Is…'. Wonderful prizes await winners. Dusit Hotel Nikko's Easter room package is valid to local residents and expatriates with ACR, from April 1 to 30. For reservations call 867-3333 extension 3118 or 3131 to 3134.



Clips

'Tiris' launch airs on DZRJ

CHAIR Roy V. Seneres of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) launches the task force exposing and fighting illegal recruiters and investment scam artists on today's special episode of "Pamilyang Overseas Filipino Workers-Small and Medium Entrepreneurs News Bureau" broadcast over DZRJ 810 AM, 9 to 10 a.m. and Kabayan Radio, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Pamilyang OFW-SMEs Network Foundation Inc. (POFW-SMENFI) president George A. Arriola said the "Task Force on Illegal Recruitment and Investment Scams"-or Tiris-initiated by the POFW-SMENFI and OFWs Protect-will assist the OFW and SME families victimized by illegal recruiters and investment scam syndicates in their fight for justice. Interested families can call Belinda Pimentel or Emy Aguinaldo at 912-5803 or 437-1660 or text 0916-7421768.

Bazaar for street children

WALKWAY Outreach Foundation Inc. has embarked on a continuous fundraising campaign to help significantly address the nationwide problem of orphaned and abandoned street children by holding a regular monthly bazaar at the Le Pavilion, Metropolitan Park, Edsa Extension corner Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The first bazaar will be launched on April 26 and 27. The new bazaar place-Le Pavilion, the in place to be for "shopaholics" and where something big always happens, is just 15 minutes away from Makati, Paranaque, and Greenhills on weekends. Arrangements are currently being finalized to make this bazaar most successful for more than 150 vendors/concessionaires. If you wish to make a donation, become a sponsor, apply as a vendor, or simply go shopping, call Lynn at 800-6772 or 805-2674, or e-mail walkway@firstmanila.com.

Club donates equipment

HAS CLUB, the oldest social and civic organization in Balanga, Bataan, donates various hospital equipment to the Bataan Provincial Hospital as part of its outreach program. Dr. Greg Pastorfide and Tezzie Pizarro, former presidents of the club, initiated the project. Current presidents engineer Manuel Camacho and Dr. Salud Bagalso will lead the club's 72nd anniversary and ball on April 26 at the Quadrangle of the Bataan Provincial Capi-

New Media Challenge

A MORE challenging year awaits Media Challenge participants as the new 2003 Civic becomes the official vehicle for its 6th season. The sportier and more stylish 2003 Civic will be driven by journalists in both dirt and tarmac courses, demonstrating its prowess in the motorsports arena. Presented by Honda Cars Philippines Inc., the new 2003 Civic features a new sleek and sportier look with its newly designed front bumper and grille with chrome moldings and multi-reflector Euro-style taillights. 14 teams will be competing, representing various media outfits. The 2003 Civic Media Challenge will be composed of 4 rounds. Competition rounds are scheduled on April 26, May 24, June 21, and July 19. Sponsors include Caltex Havoline, Michelin Tires, Nodalo's Trading and Aitech.

Seedlings for a cause

ZENAIDA Carmona-Santos, president of the Cirkulo Cagayano Foundation, is calling all Cagayanos (Nueva Viscaya) to join the foundation's dinner-dance on April 26 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel. The proceeds of the event will go to the project "Seedlings for a Cause 2003." For details, call Ms Carmona-Santos at 656-6699.

Batangas HS '53 jubilee

THE BATANGAS High School Class of 1953 will hold its golden jubilee reunion on April 26 at the school grounds. The affair will start with the celebration of the Holy Mass at 7 a.m. Registration will immediately follow the eucharistic celebration. The jubilarians will likewise hold a motorcade from the campus to the Batangas Sports Complex where all the activities will be held. All members of class '53 are enjoined to attend the celebration. For more details, call Judge Prescilla Mijares at 927-3384, Dr. Elisa Baliwag at 402-3552, or Flor Abuzman at 727-1443.

Outdoor camp for kids

DO YOU have kids? Would you love to shower them with gifts? Why not give them a gift this summer that will last all summers of their lives-the kind of gift that builds character, the kind that molds them into upstanding individuals? At the AMCI Outdoor Summerkids' Camp, veteran mountaineers from the AMCI Mountaineering

be teaching participants the rudiments of the sport in a hands-on trekking and camping experience emphasizing safety, camaraderie, and the environment-AMCI's cornerstones for becoming responsible mountaineers. Camp proper is on April 26 and 27 at the Mumarce Camp in Sitio Bathala, Tanay, Rizal. For more information, call Susan Garcia at 0917-7935240, Joyce Pacquing at 411-4882, Sol Baluyot at 731-1089, or Marris Mediola at 0920-9027984.

DOT's World of Weddings

SECRETARY Richard J. Gordon announced the DOT, in cooperation, with Themes and Motifs and WeddingAtWork.com is set to launch the biggest wedding fair in the country on April 26 and 27 at the Gardens of the World in Paskuhan Village, San Fernando City, Pampanga. The wedding fair will feature at least 200 of the best national and local wedding serviced providers, including major catering service providers, fashion designers, photographers, videographers, florists and cake makers. A food festival of Chinese, Filipino, Japanese and continental cuisine will be staged by the country's top caterers. A model search for bridal gowns, bridesmaids attire and groomswear will also be conducted. Chosen models get the chance to pose for members of Wedding Portrait Photographers of the Philippines. Each night of the event will be highlighted by a fashion show of Pampanga and Manila-based designers.

Dungca debuts

ANNA Mae Bulatao Dungca, daughter of Salvador O. Dungca and Evelyn B. Dungca, celebrates her 18th birthday today, April 26 at "The Farm" of Sen. Manny Villar at BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City. Anna Mae is an incoming AB Psychology sophomore at De La Salle University - Dasmarinas

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ◎ Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Human genetic code sequencing completed

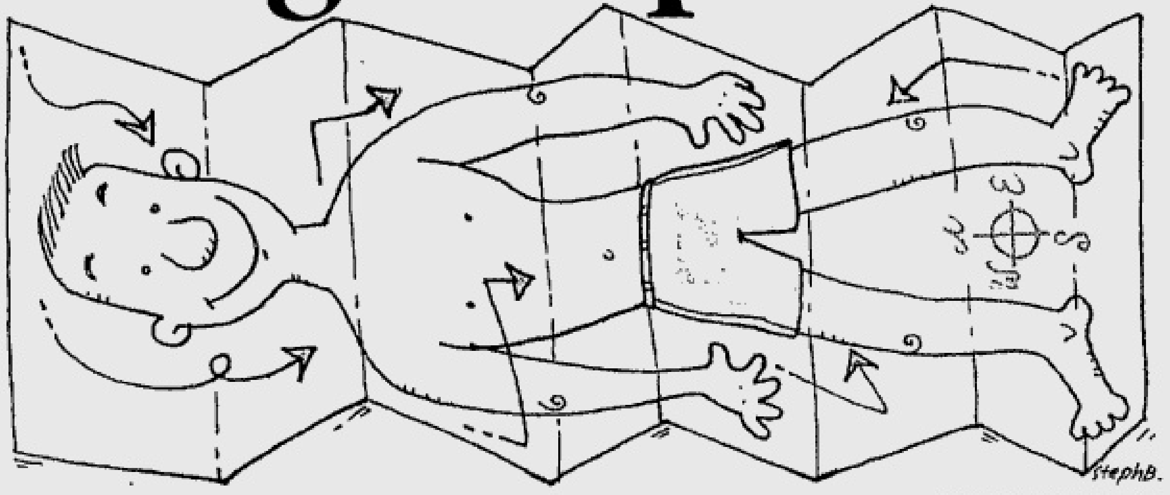


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

WHILE the world was busy worrying about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), an international research team had announced that the book of genetic instructions for the human body had been completed to an accuracy of 99.99 percent.

With the entire sequence now available to scientists worldwide, experts predict it will lead to new drugs, better forecasts of people's health and new ways to treat or prevent many of the most devastating human illnesses.

A joint statement from the leaders of the six nations in the consortium said the genetic map "provides us with the fundamental platform for understanding ourselves from which revolutionary progress will be made in biomedical sciences and in the health and welfare of humankind."

The countries involved in the undertaking are the United States, France, Great Britain, Germany, Japan and China. Along with a competing private effort, the group completed a rough draft of the genome in 2000, but it included thousands of gaps in the long sequence of DNA base pairs. Now all but 400 of those gaps have been closed.

"After three billion years of evolution...we have before us the instructions set that carries each of us from a one-celled egg through adulthood to the grave," said Dr. Robert Waterston of the International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium. "It is written in an arcane language and encompasses a complexity that we are just beginning to understand."

3 billion base pairs

The genome is composed of about three billion pairs of DNA chemicals within 24 chromosomes. The genes that control the body's development, growth, functions and aging are made of specific sequences of these chemical pairs. A small change in these sequences can be enough to cause disease.

By identifying the correct and healthy sequence of base pairs, researchers hope to be able to find the disease-causing genetic flaws that could yield to treatment.

Scientists are still uncertain how many genes there are in the genome, but most believe it is about 30,000. This number is expected to be refined with more research.

Work started in 1990

Hundreds of scientists in the consortium started the sequencing work in 1990.

American agencies and universities, led by the National Human Genome Research Institute and the Department of Energy, completed the project at a cost of about $2.7 billion, some $300 million less and two years earlier than the original estimate. The US did about half of the DNA sequencing, and some of the money budgeted for the human project was spent on sequencing other organisms, such as the mouse, and on associated technologies.

Celera Genomics, a private company, raced the international effort to produce a parallel rough draft of the genome. Completion of the competing efforts was announced at a joint news conference at the White House in June 2000. But Dr. Francis Collins, director of the NHGR, said Celera did not go on to refine the rough draft, leaving the consortium with the only essentially complete sequence.

Announcement of the completed sequence comes just days before the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA by James Watson, an American, and Francis Crick, a British biophysicist. They shared the Nobel Prize for the work. *AP*

Really getting cracking

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

ONE day in February 50 years and two months ago, James Watson and Francis Crick walked into a Cambridge, England pub and announced they had succeeded. I don't know if many people there that day understood what the two men were so happy about.

Then on April 25, 1953, Nature published a paper titled "Molecular structure of nucleic acids: A structure for deoxyribose nucleic acid" by James Watson and Francis Crick. This time what Watson and Crick had been saying for the past two months made news all over the world.

Fast-forward to Holy Week 2003, when the Human Genome Research Institute (HGRI), an arm of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), announced that the international consortium of researchers working in six different countries had completely sequenced the human genome two years ahead of the expected 2005 completion date.

Watson himself had been a part of this process. He was once quoted as saying that "only once would I have the opportunity to let my scientific life encompass the path from the double helix to the three billion steps of the human genome."

Not really complete

To be honest though, the genome isn't quite complete yet; only 99 percent of the genome can be accessed online by the public at the moment.

Since there are 23 pairs of human chromosomes, each made up of anywhere from 50 to 300 million base pairs (DNA letter combinations like C-G or A-T), and that there just under three billion bases in a human being, one can easily see that there are merely 28.5 million bases that have yet to be accounted for.

Not to worry, however, as scientists say they know what those sequences should be and they just have to officially fill in the gaps.

So now that everything is done, what will all the researchers do next?

Francis Collins, the director of the HGRI and one of the three leaders of the international consortium, co-authored an agenda, a "vision" if you will, for this "age of the genome" and it all-too-fittingly appears in the April 24 issue of Nature.

Objectives

Here are some of their goals:

- To identify what the 98 percent of the human genome really does.

Researchers have realized that only 2 percent of the genes code for proteins, which can function as hormones, enzymes, anything that keeps the human body functioning. So, are the rest of the genes junk? And if so, why have they been evolutionarily conserved over time?

A researcher at the University of Washington named Michael Brent is comparing the human genome with known animal genomes. He believes that the process of evolution will keep important genome sequences and that any matches found may help explain what "junk DNA" really does.

- To track how traits get passed on from generation to generation and why they remain stable or mutate.

REALLY/B13

Human Genome Project

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WITH all the controversy surrounding cloning and GMOs, what about the biggest genetic project of all time—the Human Genome Project (HGP)? I have personal qualms about some uses of biotechnology, but from the research I have gathered, I believe that the HGP may ultimately prove beneficial to us.

What exactly is the HGP? During a recent conference on this technology, Dr. Celia Torres-Villanueva of the Molecular Medicine and Biotechnology Lab at UP Diliman gave a succinct presentation. (The following info was taken from her lecture, and her sources include Dr. Cynthia Saloma and the websites www.ornl.gov/hgmis and www.nhgri.nih.gov.)

Genome is the total genetic information in any organism. Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, approximately 35,000 genes and three billion base pairs. Just storing the genome sequence would be beyond the reach of most computers—it requires three gigabytes of space!

In 1983, the National Laboratories of the US Department of Energy (would you believe?) began producing libraries of human chromosomes. In 1988, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) decided to cooperate, and the year after, cognizant of the power of such technology, both parties established a group to study ethical, local and social implications of the HGP.

In 1990, a five-year plan was presented to Congress, marking the official start of the HGP.

The team initially started with small organisms—two bacterial genomes (including the infamous *Haemophilus influenzae*) were sequenced in 1995, yeast in 1996, worm in 1998, and finally, the first human chromosome (number 22) in 1999.

Rivalry between agencies

But the government was not the only one working on this. Rivalry surfaced between public and private entities.

In 1998, Craig Venter of Celera Genomics (ironically, Venter was formerly connected with the government) and Incyte Pharmaceuticals announced that they would beat the government in sequencing the human genome.

Apparently, the fracas ended in a tie, because two years after, Celera and NIH jointly claimed that they had completed a "working draft" of the genome.

In 2001, the sequence was published in the prestigious journals Nature and Science. In December 2001, human chromosome 20 sequence was completed, and in January 2003, number 14 was done. The goal is to finish the whole sequence this year.

Whose DNA was actually sequenced? In this catholic age, apparently, the genome was composite, generated from 10 to 20 primary samples from anonymous donors of diverse ethnicities.

Genome facts

What exactly did the HGP tell us about ourselves?

Here are the facts: The size of the human genome is 3.1647 billion base pairs, the number of human genes vary from 30 to 35,000, size and length vary and can cover thousands of bases (average size is 3,000 base pairs).

More interestingly, it seems that only a small part (less than 2 percent) of our genome codes for proteins (we can call these the workhorses), and junk DNA make up at least half of the genome!

And in this era of strife and racial and religious hatred, we should be reminded that practically all (99.9 percent) of the nucleotide bases are exactly the same in all people.

Benefits

The benefits of the HGP are myriad. In medicine, it can lead to an improved diagnosis of disease, an earlier detection of disease predisposition, rational drug design, gene therapy and control systems for drugs, pharmacogenomics (or "personal drugs"), and organ replacement.

In microbial genome research, the HGP can help in environmental monitoring, protection from biological and chemical warfare (sound familiar?) and safe, efficient toxic waste cleanup.

In DNA forensics, the HGP can help identify potential suspects at crime scenes, crime and catastrophe victims, establish paternity and other family relations, and match organ donors with recipients in transplants.

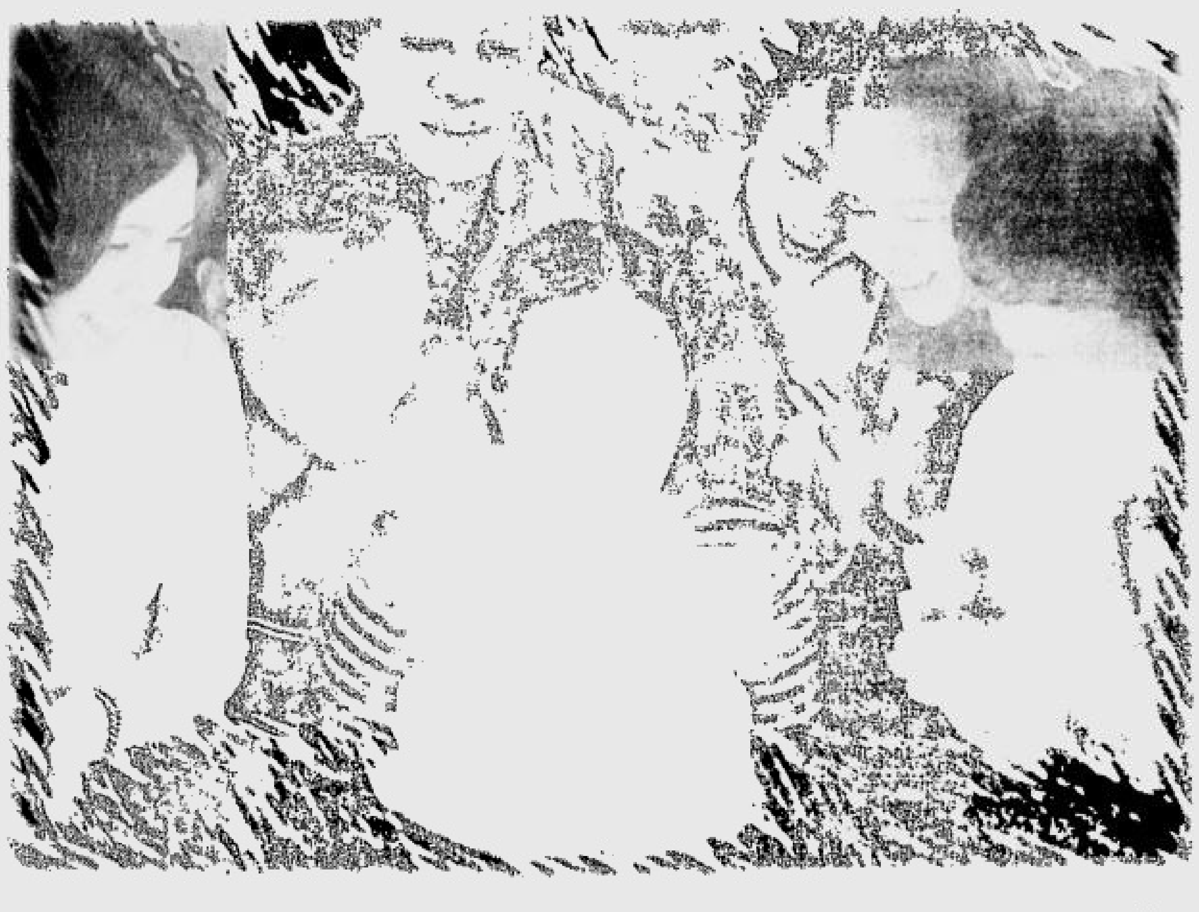
In risk assessment, the HGP can help assess health damage and risks caused by exposure to mutagens, radiation, cancer-causing toxins, and even reduce the likelihood of heritable mutations.

I have written about the ethical and social implications of genetic technology, and I will not repeat them now. I reiterate Dr. Torres-Villanueva's concluding message: "We are greater than the sum of our genes. Our genes by themselves do not determine our fate. Genetic info can be powerful, and can do both harm and good."

(Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

"I thought I'll never celebrate another birthday after my heart attack. With my anti-cholesterol statin*, I'm looking forward to more candles to blow."

-Zenaida Fortes
Senior Accountant
Heart-attack victim



Check with your doctor the new affordable statin*...

Now for Life!

Recent landmark trials have shown the beneficial effects of the cholesterol-lowering drug known as **statins.**[1] Statins help prolong lives, lower heart-related deaths, prevent heart attacks and strokes... only IF they are taken for at least 3 years, religiously.[2] COST of statins though is a big barrier to compliance.

REFERENCES:
[1] Kjekshus et al. Reducing the risk of Coronary Events: Evidence from the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) Am J Cardiol 1995, 76:64C-68C
[2] Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group MRC/BHF Heart Protection Study of cholesterol lowering with simvastatin in 20,536 high-risk individuals: a randomized placebo controlled trial. The Lancet 2002 July; 360 (9236): 7-22

* This class of drug is approved for sale by BFAD as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a prescription.

A public health service announcement from the cardiovascular division of United Laboratories, Inc.

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BOOSTING IMMUNE SYSTEM

Perfect defense vs diseases

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE BODY'S immune system is our first line of defense against infection. If we are not healthy and our immune system is weak, we can easily be affected by highly infectious diseases like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.. If we have a healthy body and maintain a healthy lifestyle and diet (including a healthy, stress-free frame of mind), then our resistance against diseases becomes stronger.

Dr. Cirilo R. Galindez, chief of the Veterans Regional Hospital in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, said a healthy diet includes drinking clean water, breathing in clean air and eating clean food—including taking "safe" food supplements.

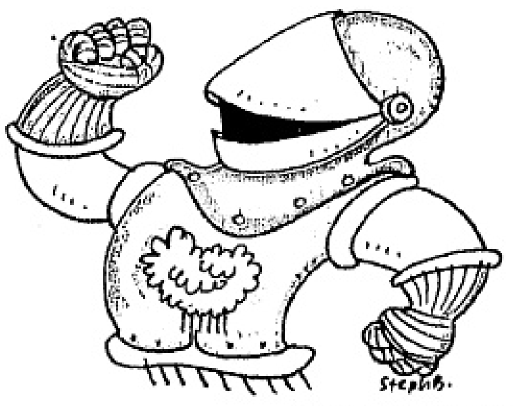


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

An example of such food supplements, he said, is one that has *andrographis paniculata*, a shrub native to India and southern Asia that has become popular as treatment for symptoms of colds and flu in Scandinavian countries.

"Bitter herbs push the immune system of the body (to resist infection)," he said.

The herb had been widely credited for halting the 1919 Indian flu epidemic.

Androgaphis paniculata is commercially available in the country as Abs Bitter Herbs.

Abs Bitter Herbs' mix of seven herbs has comparable effects with the standard drug simvastatin in treating dyslipidemia, or abnormalities in blood lipid or cholesterol levels, Galindez said.

Galindez said *andrographis paniculata* is also good for gastrointestinal cramps.

"Bitter herbs are good for the stomach. It cleanses and helps digestion and boosts the immune system," he explained.

The Department of Health's Dr. Consortia Quizon, however, said more proof was needed to verify the effectiveness of many herbal food supplements that claim to have medicinal value.

"It has not been proven that they are curative against anything so we treat them as just that, food supplements only," she said.

Choose right food for healthy kidneys

HAVING a correct diet is an essential part of treating one's weak kidneys. A diet containing controlled amounts of protein and certain minerals or "electrolytes" lessens the workload of the kidneys.

The US National Kidney Foundation recognizes the importance of appropriate dietary intervention in the management of chronic kidney disease and has released guidelines for doctors to follow.

Dr. Dinna Cruz, a former teacher at the medical school of Yale University in Connecticut and now a kidney specialist at the St. Luke's Medical Center, will be presenting these guidelines during the 23rd annual convention of the Philippine Society of Nephrology on April 28-30 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Appropriate low-protein food can prolong the health of the kidneys and can even delay the need for dialysis of kidney patients. But eliminating all protein from the diet also has potentially unhealthy consequences.

"Managing your dietary protein means two things: one, getting the right amount, and two, getting the right kind of protein," said Dr. Cruz.

"There are two categories of protein: 'high quality' and 'low quality.' High-quality protein contains a wide variety of amino acids. Kidney patients should be prescribed a diet wherein at least 50 percent of the protein allotment is of high quality," she said.

Good sources of high-quality protein are fish, chicken, beef, pork, eggs, shrimp and dairy products.

"Avoid processed meat and fish like canned luncheon meat and tuna. These are high in salt which will further strain already weakened kidneys," Dr. Cruz warned.

A post-Lenten resolve for good health

By Kathy Alcala
Contributor

LENT afforded us time to cleanse our souls through prayers and meditation. At the same time, through fasting and abstinence, we also had an opportunity to cleanse our bodies.

Lent reminded us to live a healthier lifestyle and made us abstain not only from eating red "high-cholesterol" meat but also from drinking liquor and coffee and smoking cigarettes.

Our faith requires us to abstain from these "sinful delights" at least every Wednesday and Friday of Lent and during Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Our health, however, requires us to, as much as possible, abstain from these things for life. Red meat, excessive caffeine and alcohol, and smoking are all considered unhealthy lifestyle practices which can increase our chances of having heart disease and stroke.

High cholesterol is one of the major risk factors of heart disease. This fat-like substance clogs up the walls of the arteries and blocks blood flow to the heart, causing a heart attack. It is usually caused by unhealthy diet and lifestyle practices.

TLC

Changing one's lifestyle, or Therapeutic Lifestyle Change (TLC), is the most effective treatment to reduce one's risk of developing heart disease or having a heart attack.

TLC is a set of guidelines established for the initial treatment of heart disease symptoms. It involves weight management, regular physical activity and a diet low in saturated fat and bad cholesterol but rich in fiber.

However, most people find it difficult to go about changing their lifestyles.

Healthy lifestyle tips

Here are some tips on how to make your first step toward a healthy lifestyle as a post-Lenten resolution:

- **Eat more fish.** Switch from cholesterol-laden meat to heart-healthy diets such as fish—a rich source of omega-3 fatty acids—which is the "good" fat. The American Heart Association endorses the consumption of fish or fish oils as a means of preventing and treating heart disease.
- **Cut back on vices.** During Lent we usually cut back on vices such as smoking and alcohol drinking. Continue those little sacrifices all throughout the year until you completely quit your vices.
- **Develop a new hobby which requires some physical activity.** Hopefully, the Holy Week gave you time and motivation to develop a new hobby or sport that can keep you in good physical shape all year round.
- **Manage your stress properly.** "Workaholism" is just as bad to your health as alcohol or cigarette addiction. Maintain a good balance of work and leisure. Since stress in life is unavoidable and is a part of daily living no matter how simple our lives are, learn to cope with it. Remember, it's not the stress itself which is bad but how we react to stress.
- **Consult your doctor.** Go to your doctor and make sure that you are in tip-top shape. Most people don't realize they are at risk of heart attack and stroke until they have one. The best way to prevent these complications is to let a competent physician assess your risk and manage it with the right lifestyle and medication.

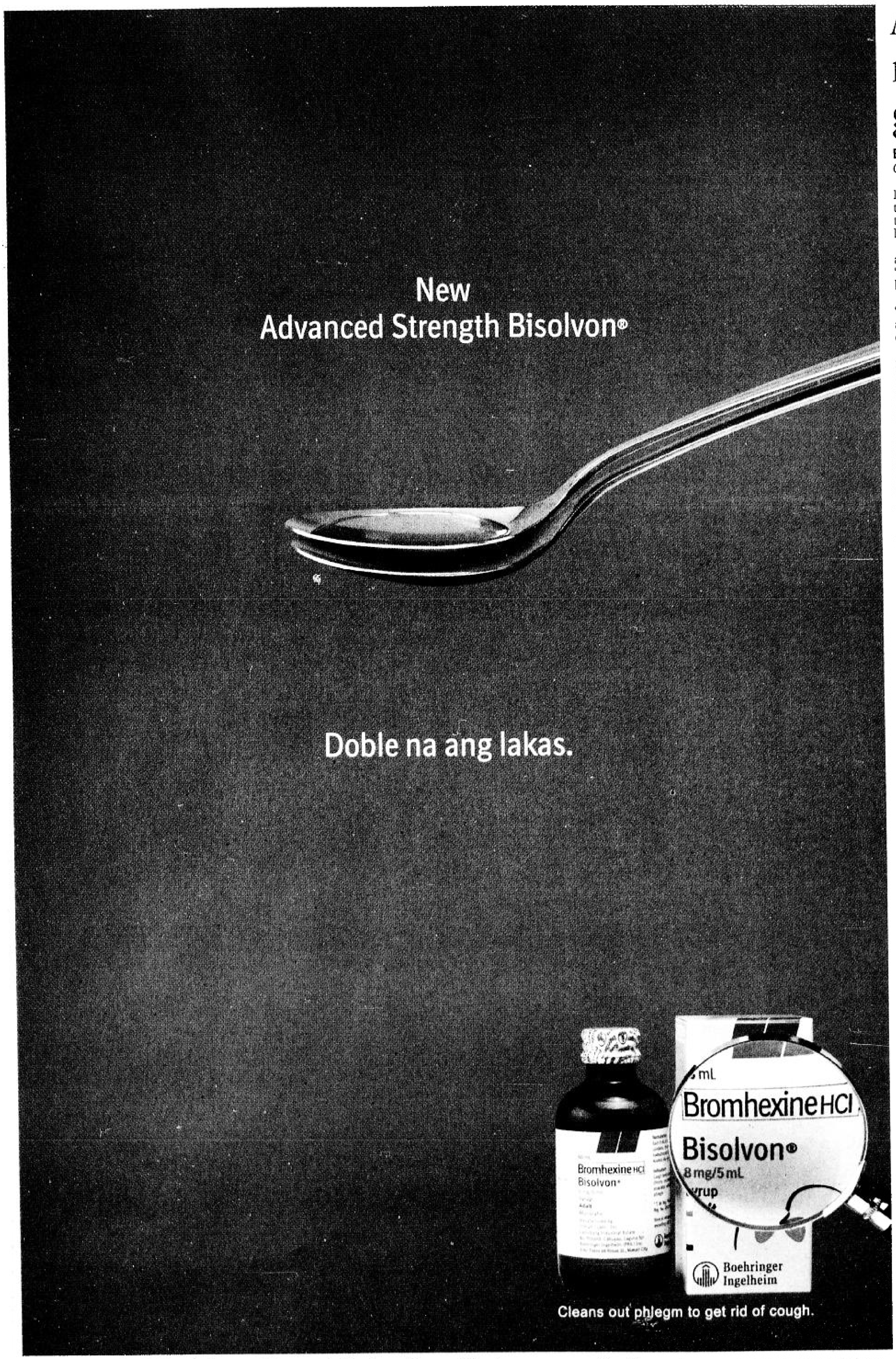
When TLC is not enough

There are, however, cases when therapeutic lifestyle change alone is not enough to keep one's cholesterol at bay. If the patient does not respond to TLC within six weeks, the doctor usually advises drug treatment.

Statins are the most potent cholesterol-lowering drug in the market today, and one of the most scientifically documented drugs of this class is simvastatin. The Heart Protection Study, a landmark 20,000-patient clinical trial, showed strong evidence that simvastatin, taken religiously for several years, cuts the risks of heart attacks and strokes in the high-risk population, particularly in diabetics.

This life-saving drug, however, comes at a high cost which poses a challenge to high-risk patients with average income, and even to well-off patients who are cost-conscious.

Therapharma, a division of Unilab, has introduced an affordable brand of simvastatin (Vidastat). Many local medical practitioners are confident that with high-quality and affordable cardiovascular medications, ,the evolving epidemic on heart attacks and strokes will be significantly reduced.



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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 031952003

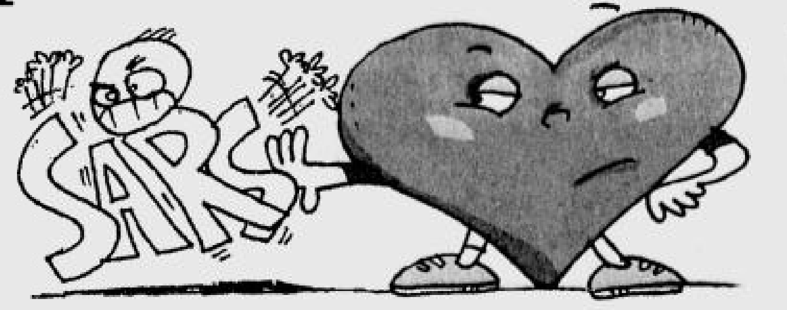
Programs to improve heart patient compliance

By Charles E. Buban

WHILE Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome has engrossed the public's attention, one should not forget that heart disease and stroke are still the world's largest killers—claiming 17 million lives worldwide annually.

These diseases, collectively known as cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), kill more people every year than cancer, accidents, chronic lower respiratory diseases, diabetes, and influenza and pneumonia combined.

"Here in the country, it is still the number one killer disease but the fact is, heart disease and stroke are largely preventable—if only patients follow simple regimen or take their medications more regularly," said Dr. Joselito Logan Atabug of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital and a consultant cardiologist at the Capitol Medical Center.



"In most cases, a doctor's problem is not how well a certain drug has worked or how effective a certain regimen was but how often their patients have taken their medications or followed their instructions," said Atabug.

Raymond Olano, an associate director at Pfizer Philippines, said more pharmaceutical companies are now focusing on better patient compliance to improve the health of patients and reduce healthcare costs.

He said Pfizer has developed two innovative patient support programs—called the Life Club and Science program—to help improve the quality of lives of people with high blood pressure and high cholesterol, two of the risk factors for heart disease.

The Pfizer Life (Learn the disease, Improve lifestyle, Feel better, Enjoy life) Club was designed for people who have problems with high cholesterol. Members regularly receive mail and text messages providing information, tips and special offers to encourage them to make lifestyle changes.

Club members are also entitled to discounts on medicines from certain drug stores.

The Science (Stop smoking, Control weight, Involve your family physician, Eat right, Note your medicine intake, Cut down on salt and alcohol, and Exercise daily) program helps patients control their blood pressure.

The program encourages patients to adhere to their medication and keep follow-up appointments with their doctors.

Members are given free starter doses of Pfizer's calcium-channel blocker and discount coupons for their medication.

Cell phone users are driving 'blind'

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

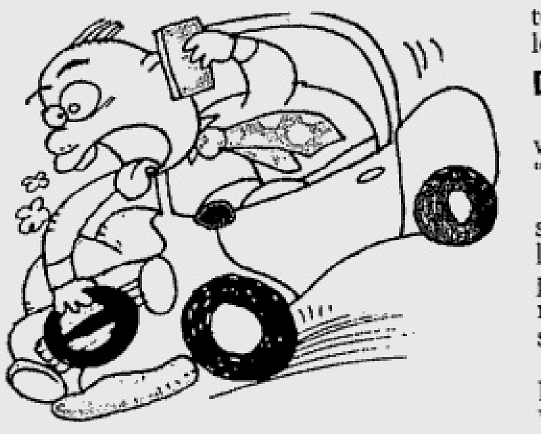
I WAS recently abroad to attend a conference. I was driving a car waiting for the green light when suddenly, another car driven by an executive who was talking to someone on his cell phone bumped the rear portion of my car. Fortunately, my car's rear bumper suffered only a scratch.

Accidents like this, which may be directly attributed to the use of cell phones while driving, are being repeated every day all over the world. Most are minor accidents; but some may cost the lives and limbs of both the drivers and passengers.

Various studies have shown that motorists are more accident-prone and react more slowly when they talk on cell phones while driving. Even hands-free models are not safe to use.

Researchers at the University of Utah found that "inattention blindness" makes drivers less able to process visual information, making them very prone to accidents.

The study's lead investigators, psychologists David Strayer, Frank Drews and William Johnston, explain: "Even when [drivers] are directing their gaze at objects in the driving environment, they may fail to 'see' them because attention is directed elsewhere. Phone conversations impair driving performance by withdrawing attention from the visual scene, yielding a form of inattention blindness."



The study, which was published in the Journal of Applied Experimental Psychology, validates and explains the researchers' widely publicized findings in 2001 that users of hands-free and handheld cell phones are equally impaired, missing more traffic signals and reacting to signals more slowly than motorists who do not use cell phones.

Simulator used

In the study, a simulator was used and the subject sat on a replica of the driver's portion of a Ford Crown Victoria patrol car—including a steering wheel, ignition key, accelerator and brake pedals and dashboard displays. He was also surrounded by screens that show a realistic driving environment.

At times, study subjects also spoke on a cell phone, conversing with another who was instructed to keep a balance between making the driver talk and listen. Only hands-free cell phones were used in the study so the researchers could avoid any distracting effects from the handling of phones, and focus on the distracting effects of conversation. The cell phone users' impaired ability to respond to a vehicle braking in front of them was shown.

Three cell phone users during heavy traffic rear-ended the simulated car. The experiment also showed that cell phone users took longer to brake, rode the brakes longer, and took longer to accelerate again.

Don't really see

Another interesting finding of the study was that cell phone users look but don't really "see" or pay attention to their surroundings.

Simulated billboards were shown and the study subjects looked at these for the same length of time whether or not they used a cell phone. Cell phone users were worse at remembering later which billboards they had seen.

"When people look at a billboard, they are less likely to see it if they are on a cell phone. What we are showing is that looking and seeing are not one and the same. Directing your eyes doesn't mean you are bringing in the information and able to act on it," said Dr. Strayer.

The last part of the study showed that cell phone users had worse "implicit perceptual memory"—defined as subconscious memory of things not necessarily remembered consciously—compared with people not talking on cell phones.

The findings also suggest cell phone conversations may interfere with the ability to react to sudden events like a pedestrian darting into traffic or a car running a red light. Now that would really be tragic.

In actual terms, the researchers estimated that cell phone use while driving quadruples the risk of traffic accidents and it poses significant risks both to the driver and the public.

So the bottom line is: Turn your cell phones off or to silent-mode while driving and avoid touching that gadget while you're on the wheels. If you have to make a phone call, pull over to the side. You'll have a much better chance of arriving safely to wherever your destination is.

Clean water site urgent

THE WATER Environment Association of the Philippines underscored anew the urgency of preserving a clean water environment by sponsoring a two-day training for water and wastewater plant operators on May 9-10 at the Hotel Supreme in Baguio City.

WEAP president Diosdado R. Pineda said the association has been calling on commercial and industrial establishments to confront the pervasive issue of wastewater with all its consequences to the environment and the people's health.

For inquiries to the training seminar, contact the WEAP at tel/fax 371-9790 or 410-1119.

Really getting cracking

From page B11

Researchers at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis recently discovered that the alleles of a gene called Slc27a4 produce a protein that affects hair growth, obesity and wrinkles. Maybe someday there'll be a single pill for all three problems.

- To understand how and why genes can cause and prevent diseases.

Take the recent announcement of the World Health Organization that the Philippines has reported 10,000 HIV-infected people, a mere 0.01 percent of the 80 million-strong population. Then consider the fact that Vietnam, with a population as big as that of the Philippines, has reported 130,000 cases of HIV-positive people.

Are the numbers here just being underreported? Are only afew people repeatedly practicing unsafe sex or are there more people out there using condoms but are not willing to admit it? Or are there just more Filipinos who are immune to HIV, and if so, why?

- To speed up the use of genetic information in biomedical research and put it to work in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of a disease.

It used to be that identifying a gene that caused a specific condition could take years. Now, the mapped genome could decrease the search time to mere hours. The allele that causes progeria (rapid aging in kids) was very recently discovered by two research groups, one of which is a study co-authored by Francis Collins himself with help from the Human Genome Project.

There's more but I think you get the idea.

Given all this, it looks like they weren't entirely right on April 14 when they announced that the human genome was complete; in fact, the project won't be over for decades to come. To quote the vision of Collins et al., "If the past 50 years of biology is any indication of the future, the best is certainly yet to come."

RED ALERT FOR INVASIVE TERRORISTS

By: Reynulfo Sy, M.D.

Recently, the risk of biological warfare placed us on our toes. The danger of exposure to biological, chemical and environmental hazard is life threatening. The intermittent emergence of new strains of pathogens, mostly contagious fatal viruses, compounded the situation. Indeed, these new breed of invasive terrorists demand urgent attention and action.

The need for measures to combat these adversaries is imperative. Fortunately, we have a built-in immune system, constantly on red alert, conscientiously seeking and destroying injurious organisms and substances. Since birth, our immune system, through macrophages, lymphocytes and other tissue cells, possesses and acquires the ability to render protection of vital body parts, such as our lungs and digestive tract. It identifies and neutralizes possible harmful organisms and substances. Data regarding this encounter is stored in memory cells and used to recognize and aid in future confrontation with identical invaders.

Everyday we cope with infective agents, environmental risks and chemical toxins. The challenge we face may be in our homes, in the streets or in our workplace. The importance of a useful immune system is crucial.

As we age, our immune system progressively wanes in effectiveness. Stress, pollution, physical abuse, chronic exposure to toxins and improper diet contribute to the decline of our immune system.

The weakening of our immune system leads to infection and damage to our vital organs. This vicious cycle of low resistance and infection may result in serious systemic illness. Through early preparation, we can avoid the quicksand.

The proper use of quality natural food supplements is helpful in recharging our immune system. Appropriate diet, regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle, promotes a functional mechanism to fight viruses, bacteria, foreign bodies and other microorganisms. The control of infection, allergic reactions, nutritional deficiencies and functional recovery through natural food supplementation is gradually gaining recognition and acceptance.

Nature is truly the best medicine. It is the fundamental healthy alternative in the struggle for a wholesome being. •

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BEE PROPOLIS - NATURE'S MOST POWERFUL ANTIBIOTIC

Propolis is that sticky resin from the barks and buds of some trees. The honey-bees gather it and mix it with their own secretions to form the wonderful substance, Bee Propolis. Bee propolis is the immune system of the beehive. It protects the hive from harmful bacteria, viruses and fungi. This natural substance contains a complex mixture of many important vitamins, minerals and bioflavonoids. Research has documented its worth against parasites, fungal infestations and viruses. It is so powerful in action, it is often called the Russian penicillin.

Propolis is one of the most well-documented products known to stimulate and strengthen the body's natural immune system.

Professor S. Scheller, heading a team of four other doctors at the Institute for Microbiology at the Medical Academy in Sabrze-Rokitinca, Poland, published a research stating that propolis is able to directly stimulate the immune system to release substances that protect against cellular deterioration...promotes a process of phagocytosis, the means by which white blood cells destroy bacteria...stimulated the formation of antibodies to build immunity to many diseases.

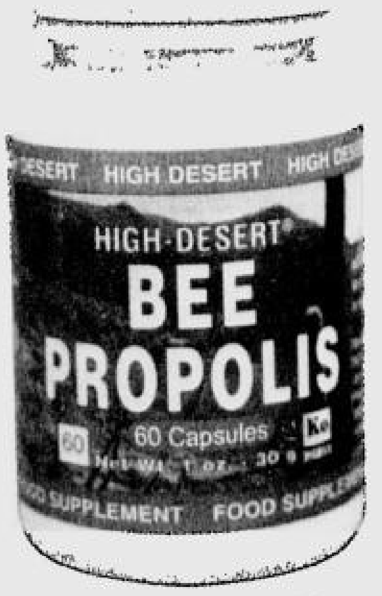
This is why propolis is known to increase resistance to infection and illnesses and is widely recognized as a preventive supplement.

James A. Devlin, Ph.D in his book, To Your Best Health, Naturally writes, "Propolis fights just about anything nasty you can think of. It's antibacterial, antibiotic, anticancer, antifungal, anti-infective, antimicrobial, antimold, antioxidative, antiseptic, antiyeast and amazingly it's also an antiviral." In overcoming virus infection, an explanation is offered by Soviet scientist, K.A. Kuzmina who delivered a paper in which he described that propolis has a toning and fortifying effect on the body. With propolis, the virus-fighting power of phagocytosis is strengthened. The content of the protective virus-fighting protein, properdin, starts to rise in the blood.

Our immune system carries on a daily battle against a multitude of enemies. Without a healthy immune system it is almost impossible for the human body to survive, we are exposed with so many toxic substances, harmful bacteria and viruses that threatens our body within. Eating a healthy diet, adapting a healthy lifestyle and taking effective food supplements--like the High Desert Bee Propolis--will boost our natural defense; in effect it will give our body's immune system a good fight.

What To Look For In Bee Propolis?

1. Flavonoid content. Flavonoid is the most important ingredient in propolis. The higher its content, the more effective the propolis is. High-Desert has gone to great lengths to obtain raw propolis with consistently high flavonoid content.
2. State-of-the-art Processing method. Most of the propolis extracts in the market have been processed under high temperature and inferior processing methods. More than 60% of the active ingredients may have experienced severe deterioration. In High-Desert, extraction of raw propolis is carried out in low temperature and a proprietary process which is able to effectively remove all foreign matter and impurities while at the same time preserving the bioactivity of the propolis, its flavonoids and other important nutrients.



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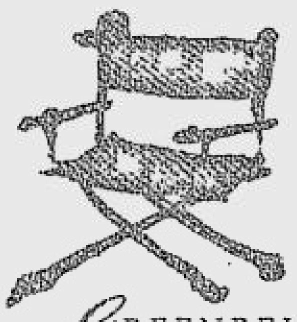

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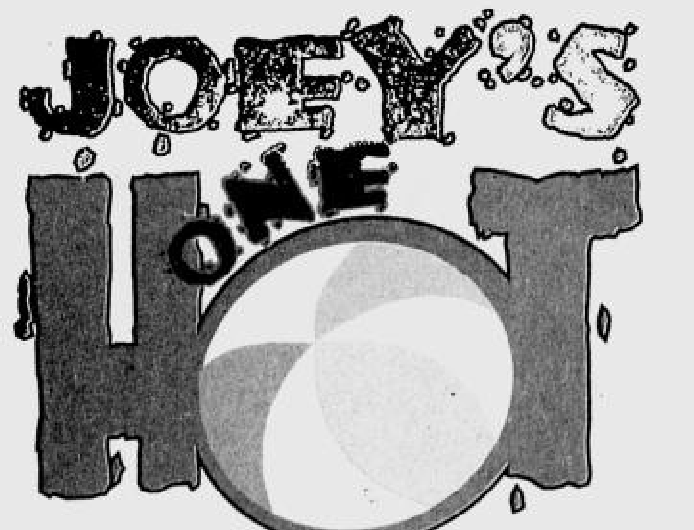

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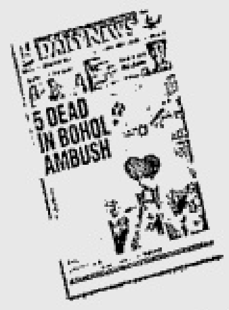

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Palace OKs list of priority investment areas

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the 2003 Investment Priorities Plan drawn up by the Board of Investments aimed at spurring new capital flows into publishing and tourism.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the new IPP was crafted to support the sustainable development program of the government in the face of rising global competition.

The BOI finalized the 2003 IPP following a series of public consultations. The IPP is the annual listing of investment areas that would get fiscal perks such as income tax holidays ranging from six to eight years.

The BOI had expanded its 2003 IPP to include printing facilities and tourism development in Mindanao and broadened the coverage of key economic activities such as energy sourcing, logistics, drugs, manufacturing and engineered products.

Roxas said the groundwork for continuously implementing the government's development programs has been laid down last year.

Roxas said the BOI had included state-of-the-art and high quality printing facilities as eligible projects for incentives "in the light of emerging developments."

The BOI also expanded coverage of medicine projects to include the production of vaccines for animal diseases and active substances for drugs. In the logistic activities qualified for incentives, the BOI has included agriculture services, pipeline operations, and environmental service activities.

The BOI has likewise expanded the projects categorized as engineered products, ICT and social services to include modernization projects. Roxas also noted that the 2003 IPP would give special emphasis on developing the tourism industry in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) specifically Tawi-Tawi, Marawi City in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Isabela City, Basilan.

"We believe that given the right support and priorities, Mindanao can continue to become a viable site. Giving potential business areas in Mindanao a room to develop and improve business confidence can translate to good economic returns for the region," Roxas said. "It's not an easy task but we have to do this to reduce problems in the region arising from the social unrest in the region."

Roxas says World Bank wrong, SARS will not affect RP exports

BAGUIO CITY—Government economists believe the World Bank's dire economic prediction for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)-afflicted Asia is totally wrong.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II on Friday said the Philippines has its own economists who are certain that the country's trade would improve dramatically in spite of SARS. Roxas said government economists attributed the positive forecast to an "inventory build-up" in European markets that anticipated dividends from the United States-led war on Iraq.

The World Bank had scaled down its growth forecast for the country and the rest of the region because of "external shocks" attributed to SARS and the war. A World Bank official on Thursday said SARS could effectively slow down export inventories of Asian countries like the Philippines until December this year.

Roxas acknowledged the economic downturn affecting China and Hong Kong, after SARS dramatically reduced travel and trade there, but he stressed that it was "much too early" to determine the impact on regional trade.

"I agree with World Bank that throughout the world, SARS will have some sort of an effect because there will be lesser tourism, perhaps lesser trade, but it won't affect all countries uniformly. Last year, we had a very robust positive 8 or 9 percent in our export number, while the export of other countries were contracting," he said.

"We think that our exports will continue to be robust. As of my meeting with the Semiconductor and Electronics Industry Philippines Inc. (Seipi) here (on Friday), it's quite robust and healthy," he said, after determining from Seipi that the industry's inventory orders were stable.

Seipi is holding its annual general assembly at the Camp John Hay.

According to a DTI press statement, the country's exports "continued to gain momentum as total revenues for January and February this year hit $5.41 billion, representing a 3 percent increase over the $5.259 billion generated in the same period (of 2002)."

Roxas also emphasized that China's economic woes due to SARS had not reduced its trade importance to Asia and the members of the World Trade Organization.

He said the Philippines' new trade position with the growing economic giant had also not changed. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Peso slides to 53.05 to $1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday slid back to the 53 level against the US dollar on jitters arising from Standard & Poor's recent credit-rating downgrade as well as the spillover of the SARS outbreak on the Philippines.

The peso closed at the intra-day low of 53.05 at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday from Thursday's close of 52.795 to the dollar, falling back to the 53 level for the first time since the end of the three-week war in Iraq.

The weighted average of the currency stood at 53.009 as against the previous day's 52.658 to the dollar, while value turnover fell to $119 million from $128 million on Thursday.

Chinatrust Commercial Bank treasurer Roland Avante said the peso took a beating from the recent S&P downgrade, the continued spread of SARS in Asia as well as the depreciation of the Japanese yen.

On Thursday, S&P downgraded the Philippines' long-term sovereign credit rating to "BB" from "BB plus," over concerns on the government's fragile fiscal position. It also lowered the short-term foreign currency rating to "A-3" from "A-2", even as it affirmed a "stable" outlook on the long-term ratings.

The downgrade likewise resulted in the dramatic widening of spreads of Philippine debt papers and further decline in the local stock market.

"Investors are also worried about the impact of SARS on Asian economies," Avante said, noting that the next resistance level for the dollar would be at 53.20.

Excise taxes and car prices

BUSINESS 101

By Raul C. Dancel

CONGRESS is currently hammering out a law that will overhaul the excise tax system on the local auto industry.

One good thing about it is that it will ultimately bring down the prices of passenger cars, like the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic, which are currently worth at least P620,000.

Toyota and Honda are already set to introduce two new subcompacts—the Toyota Soluna Vios and Honda City—to take full advantage of the new tax system in case Congress gets around to approving it. These models are expected to retail for about P500,000 to P600,000.

The downside is that the new system will make Asian-utility vehicles, like the Toyota Revo and Isuzu Crosswind, more expensive. AUV prices may hit the P1-million luxury benchmark.

A gray area is whether the government will indeed earn as much as it expects from the new excise tax system.

Indirect taxation

An excise tax is an indirect tax charged on the sale of a particular good. It is considered to be an indirect form of taxation since it does not involve the government directly taxing people.

These taxes can be categorized into two categories by their structure: ad valorem, a fixed percentage charged on a particular good; and, specific, a fixed amount based on the quantity purchased. In recent years, excise tax has been used to describe just about every tax except income tax.

Excise taxes are referred to as "sin taxes" because they are essentially penalties for excesses and are usually levied on luxury items, such as alcohol and tobacco.

In the local auto industry, the concept of luxury has been equated with engine size. The assumption is that the bigger the engine, the more it pollutes the environment and should, therefore, carry a hefty tax to discourage their use or consumption. It is also held that luxury cars often have engine displacements that are bigger than normal cars.

The existing tax system is, therefore, based on engine displacement and fuel type.

Gasoline engines with a displacement of up to 1,600 cc and diesel engines with a displacement of 1,800 cc currently carry a 15-percent excise tax. Gasoline engines with a displacement of between 1,601 cc and 2,000 cc and diesel engines with a displacement of 1,801 cc to 2,300 cc—the most common type of engines used on the road—are slapped a 35-percent excise tax.

Gasoline engines with a displacement of 2,001 cc to 2,700 cc and diesel engines with a displacement of 2,301 cc to 3,000 cc are levied a 50-percent excise tax. Gasoline engines with a displacement of over 2,701 cc-power-trains of cars carry a 100-percent excise tax.

AUVs are currently exempted from excise taxes.

Removing tax exemptions

Congress is currently working on two bills that remove engine displacement as a basis for the excise tax system, replacing it instead with the net manufacturer's price.

Senate Bill No. 2157 and House Bill No. 5719 prescribe a 3-percent excise tax on vehicles worth up to P500,000. For vehicles worth P500,000 to P1 million, the tax rate is: P15,000, plus 15 percent of the value in excess of P500,000. Cars worth P1 million to P2 million will carry a tax rate of P90,000, plus 30 percent of the value in excess of P1 million. Vehicles worth over P2 million will have a tax rate of P390,000, plus 50 percent of the value in excess of P2 million.

If the new tax system is approved, a compact sedan with a net manufacturer's price of P650,000 will be worth about P687,500—P650,000, plus P15,000 and 15 percent of the value in excess of P500,000, in this case, 15 percent of P150,000, or P22,500.

In the existing tax structure, the same car will be worth around P877,500.

Both bills remove the AUV's tax exempt status.

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Boredom, gossip, deadlier than SARS

By Marge C. Enriquez

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Call it boredom.

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What we see and hear have instant consequences, not only on the personal level but also on our environment. Images and stories influence our thoughts and have the potential to either expand or constrict our horizons.

But why the penchant for gossip?

"To gossip or criticize other people is to be immature," says British life coach Denise Lawrence, "because you haven't understood the dynamics going on in them. Gossiping and criticizing aren't going to accomplish anything except getting people against you. To be mature means you're not going to point your finger and say, 'This one is like this. This one is like that.' It's none of your business. It means you are not focusing on yourself, avoiding what you have to deal with. It's a waste of time. Who are you to throw stones?"

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Wasteful subjects

Over tea recently, a socialite revealed that ladies' lunches could be boring if the conversations were shallow. This socialite is exposed to influential leaders and intellectuals who discuss international terrorism and public affairs as a matter of course. She finds inane such "common" subjects as who is sleeping with whom, or the latest cat fight.

"I hate to gossip," she said, noting that intelligent people exchanged ideas while ordinary people talked about mundane events. "If you discuss a person's problems or what brings him down, the listeners will remain feeling bad after the lunch. I'd rather listen to a 92-year-old lady relate what she's learned about life."

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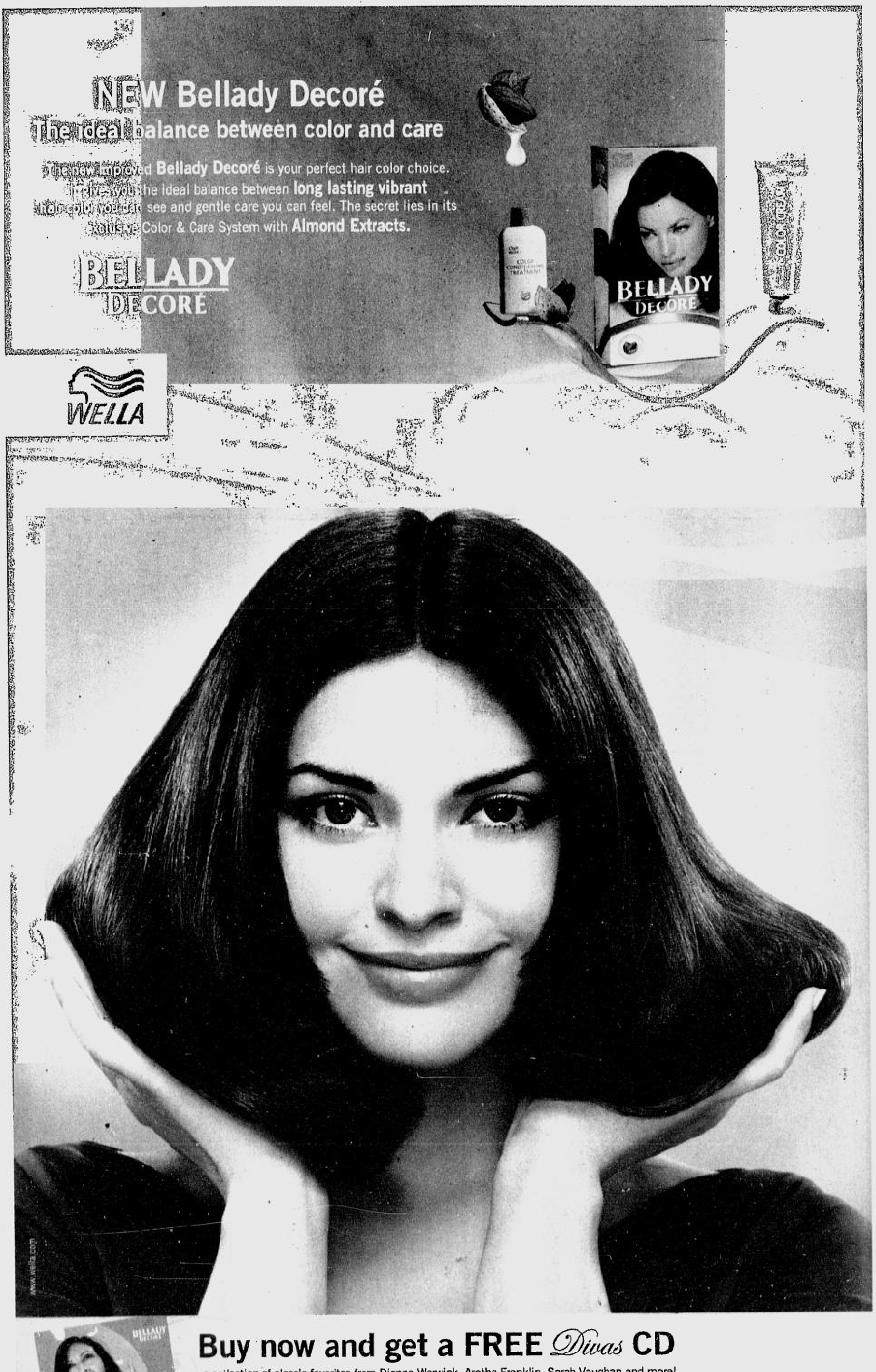
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Haven for the working rich

By Teddy Y. Montelibano
Contributor
(Third of six parts)

"THERE are no more sugar barons around here," Marilyn "Lyn" Buenaflor Gamboa says.

We are out on the terrace of her finely appointed home in Silay City, a 20-minute ride northwards from Bacolod, capital of Negros Occidental. "But there is a new baronship, so to speak, a better-than-ever breed that is more socially aware and *maka-tao* (pro-people)."

Gamboa is representative of modern well-heeled Negros now imbued not only with a sense of social responsibility but also with an acute awareness of what this province was–and is–all about and what it means, really, to be a Negrense.

Much of the overall effort to remind people in Silay–once known as the "Paris of Negros"–of the province's rich cultural heritage can be attributed to Gamboa and many others in the often thankless and frustrating job they have embarked on and continue to persevere in.

In 1987, with the vanquish of the Marcos dictatorship and spurred by fresh, bright hopes of better things to come, a small band composed of Agustin Montilla III, Cristina Loarca Montelibano, and Gamboa, among others, put together the Negros Cultural

Foundation (NCF). It was initially chaired by architect Leandro V. Locsin, National Artist and a native of Silay. After his demise in 1994, Purita Kalaw Ledesma took over.

The NCF is a non-stock, non-profit organization established for the main purpose of awakening interest and pride in Negros' cultural past through various activities.

PHOTO BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

EXPORTER Marilyn "Lyn" Buenaflor Gamboa, a modern well-heeled Negrense with a sense of responsiblity.

Crown jewels

The foundation's "crown jewels" are the Balay Negrense lifestyle museum in Silay and the Negros Museum in Bacolod. Balay Negrense is the restored ancestral home of Don Victor Gaston, whose family brought sugar to the Philippines. The Negros Museum is housed in the stunning and historic neo-classical provincial capitol building.

Constructed in 1898 through 1903, the 1,000 square-meter, two-storey Gaston ancestral manse, has an open veranda on the second floor and a garden with balustrades atop the roof. It is a clear glimpse of a bygone era, particularly of the lifestyle of Negros' upper class. Gaston's heirs had donated the property to the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) which then endorsed it to the Silay City government, which ultimately entrusted it to the NCF.

On the other hand, the Negros Museum, mostly through the plodding efforts of both Gamboa and Montelibano, and with the help of occasional donors, now houses several galleries. For art exhibitions there are the Phinma Gallery and Gallery Blanco. And then there are the Governors' Gallery, the Cinco de Noviembre Gallery featuring art works depicting Negros' revolt in 1898 against the Spaniards, and JGM Gallery of International Folk Art and Toys showcasing some 3,000 toys from over 60 countries. The latter, which came with a million-peso endowment, was donated by Mara Montelibano, and currently benefits from her active physical presence.

The indefatigable Gamboa gives this writer a tour of what will soon be the Museum's new quarters. As we move through the maze of construction work, her impassioned spiel about Negros, her museum-related labors, and other things besides leave me quite out of breath. I maintain that most Negrenses are laid-back–but not this one.

Then again, Gamboa is not strictly from Negros. She was born and raised in Tarlac, hometown of her father who is a prominent lawyer. Her mother, from Pontevedra, Negros Occidental, ran a music school in their house where piano, violin and voice lessons were taught and where live concerts, ballets and plays were staged. Performing artists of the time, including Silay-born international opera singer Conchita Gaston and ballet dancer Inday Gaston Mañosa, and other Visayan artists such as violinist Gil Lopez-Kabayao and concert pianist Nena del Rosario Villanueva, came to perform in the Buenaflors' sala.

Thus, Gamboa was not a stranger to Negros culture when, in 1961, after five years of studies in the United States, she married *hacendero* Nil Gamboa and settled in Silay to raise a family.

Snobbish, 'crabbish'

Old-rich Silay, with over 30 ancestral homes, has been designated a historical site by the National Historical Institute. Many of them still habitable, the ancestral homes were built by the city's most prominent families at least a century ago.

Once Negros Occidental's major port, the Silay that Gamboa initially experienced was the veritable center of the country's sugar industry and home to many of the province's economic, intellectual and cultural elite at a time when wealth from sugar–a protected commodity fetching handsome prices in the US market–was at its peak.

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Worthwhile diversions

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HPCO was acquired by Theo'H. Davis & Co. in 1948, and in 1974 the mill was purchased by the Jardine Davis Co., which today maintains the only two existing steam engine locomotives in the Philippines. These two "iron dinosaurs" are the cultural icons in this genteel enclave of migrant families from Iloilo, in the neighboring Panay Island. *Adrian Lizares*

For inquiries on the steam engine locomotives John P. Etabag, human resource manager, HPCO 034-4952085 or email at jpetabag@hpcosugar.com

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

THE OLDEST steam engine train still runs in Negros.

Haven for the working rich

By Teddy Y. Montelibano
Contributor
(Third of six parts)

"THERE are no more sugar barons around here," Marilyn "Lyn" Buenaflor Gamboa says.

We are out on the terrace of her finely appointed home in Silay City, a 20-minute ride northwards from Bacolod, capital of Negros Occidental. "But there is a new baronship, so to speak, a better-than-ever breed that is more socially aware and *maka-tao* (pro-people)."

Gamboa is representative of modern well-heeled Negros now imbued not only with a sense of social responsibility but also with an acute awareness of what this province was–and is–all about and what it means, really, to be a Negrense.

Much of the overall effort to remind people in Silay–once known as the "Paris of Negros"–of the province's rich cultural heritage can be attributed to Gamboa and many others in the often thankless and frustrating job they have embarked on and continue to persevere in.

In 1987, with the vanquish of the Marcos dictatorship and spurred by fresh, bright hopes of better things to come, a small band composed of Agustin Montilla III, Cristina Loarca Montelibano, and Gamboa, among others, put together the Negros Cultural Foundation (NCF). It was initially chaired by architect Leandro V. Locsin, National Artist and a native of Silay. After his demise in 1994, Purita Kalaw Ledesma took over.

The NCF is a non-stock, non-profit organization established for the main purpose of awakening interest and pride in Negros' cultural past through various activities.

PHOTO BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

EXPORTER Marilyn "Lyn" Buenaflor Gamboa, a modern well-heeled Negrense with a sense of responsiblity.

Crown jewels

The foundation's "crown jewels" are the Balay Negrense lifestyle museum in Silay and the Negros Museum in Bacolod. Balay Negrense is the restored ancestral home of Don Victor Gaston, whose family brought sugar to the Philippines. The Negros Museum is housed in the stunning and historic neo-classical provincial capitol building.

Constructed in 1898 through 1903, the 1,000 square-meter, two-storey Gaston ancestral manse, has an open veranda on the second floor and a garden with balustrades atop the roof. It is a clear glimpse of a bygone era, particularly of the lifestyle of Negros' upper class. Gaston's heirs had donated the property to the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) which then endorsed it to the Silay City government, which ultimately entrusted it to the NCF.

On the other hand, the Negros Museum, mostly through the plodding efforts of both Gamboa and Montelibano, and with the help of occasional donors, now houses several galleries. For art exhibitions there are the Phinma Gallery and Gallery Blanco. And then there are the Governors' Gallery, the Cinco de Noviembre Gallery featuring art works depicting Negros' revolt in 1898 against the Spaniards, and JGM Gallery of International Folk Art and Toys showcasing some 3,000 toys from over 60 countries. The latter, which came with a million-peso endowment, was donated by Mara Montelibano, and currently benefits from her active physical presence.

The indefatigable Gamboa gives this writer a tour of what will soon be the Museum's new quarters. As we move through the maze of construction work, her impassioned spiel about Negros, her museum-related labors, and other things besides leave me quite out of breath. I maintain that most Negrenses are laid-back–but not this one.

Then again, Gamboa is not strictly from Negros. She was born and raised in Tarlac, hometown of her father who is a prominent lawyer. Her mother, from Pontevedra, Negros Occidental, ran a music school in their house where piano, violin and voice lessons were taught and where live concerts, ballets and plays were staged. Performing artists of the time, including Silay-born international opera singer Conchita Gaston and ballet dancer Inday Gaston Mañosa, and other Visayan artists such as violinist Gil Lopez-Kabayao and concert pianist Nena del Rosario Villanueva, came to perform in the Buenaflors' sala.

Thus, Gamboa was not a stranger to Negros culture when, in 1961, after five years of studies in the United States, she married *hacendero* Nil Gamboa and settled in Silay to raise a family.

Snobbish, 'crabbish'

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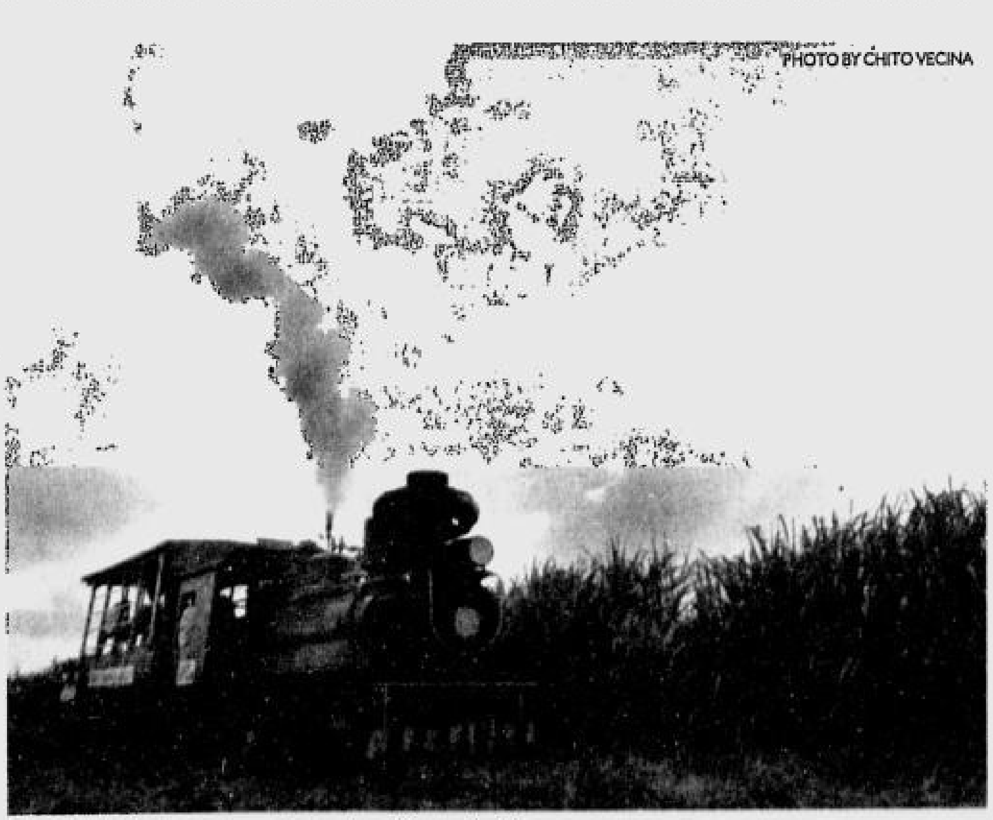

THE OLDEST steam engine train still runs in Negros.

Discover Gold in a Bottle

Much of the history of the precious metal known as gold is mired in remote antiquity. The lack of hard archeological evidence makes it impossible to pinpoint the time and place of man's first encounter with the noble metal. One of the earliest recorded mentions of gold, however, came from ancient Egypt circa 3000 BC, where pharaohs and temple priests used the shining yellow metal as adornment. Though at the time gold had yet to become the medium of exchange, the ancient Egyptians, who were always deemed to be ahead of their time, knew early on that gold's resplendent luster and scarcity made it perfect material for exquisite jewelry. As such, to this day, anything associated with gold is equated with value.

This connection to gold is not lost in the fine art of brandy making. Since 1902, Fundador, produced and bottled by the renowned House of Domecq, has been the standard upon which all other brandies are measured – a product precious in itself. The stringent and painstaking development of Fundador is backed not only by years of experience, but also by a dynamic aging process known as the Solera System, which ensures its consistent quality. Fundador Solera is distilled from the finest Spanish grapes, aged in oak sherry casks, and stored in the bodegas of the Domecq family in Jerez, Spain. With such an established and meticulous process backing it up, it is a small wonder that Fundador has become the number one imported spirit in the Philippines.

How, then, does an established market leader improve on an already exceptional product? The answer is simple: Allied Domecq's foray into further product development has led to the new ***Fundador Gold Reserve*** — a Solera Reserva brandy which is aged longer than its successful sibling. Through further aging and careful blending with brandies from the personal reserves of Don Beltran Domecq himself, the House of Domecq has come up with a rich, warm aromatic brandy that is truly a pleasure to savor. Fundador Gold Reserve's amber and gold color, balanced and clean scent and smooth, lingering flavor invite the senses and invoke a sense of privilege – making it truly worthy of its distinctive name.

Just like the precious metal, which is often set aside for special occasions, ***Fundador Gold Reserve*** is best consumed in times of celebration. With its distinctive characteristics, it is a brandy made a cut above the rest – meant to be consumed by people who have learned to rise above. Its smoother taste and more aromatic scent serves as a reminder of just how special a product it is, and just how special the people who drink it are. Like the pharaohs and high priests of ancient Egypt, they who adorned themselves with gold, Fundador Gold Reserve fits the successful modern man and his lifestyle. The Fundador Gold Reserve experience is one invariably associated with celebrations, special occasions and special people – a crowning glory for personal achievement.

Discovering this kind of golden experience is therefore a joy in itself. With the arrival of ***Fundador Gold Reserve***, they who feel like they've learned to make strides and earn personal victories have indeed found the perfect match. After all, discovering Fundador Gold Reserve is akin to hitting it big – a truly valuable experience to be cherished like the precious metal it has been named after. ADVT.

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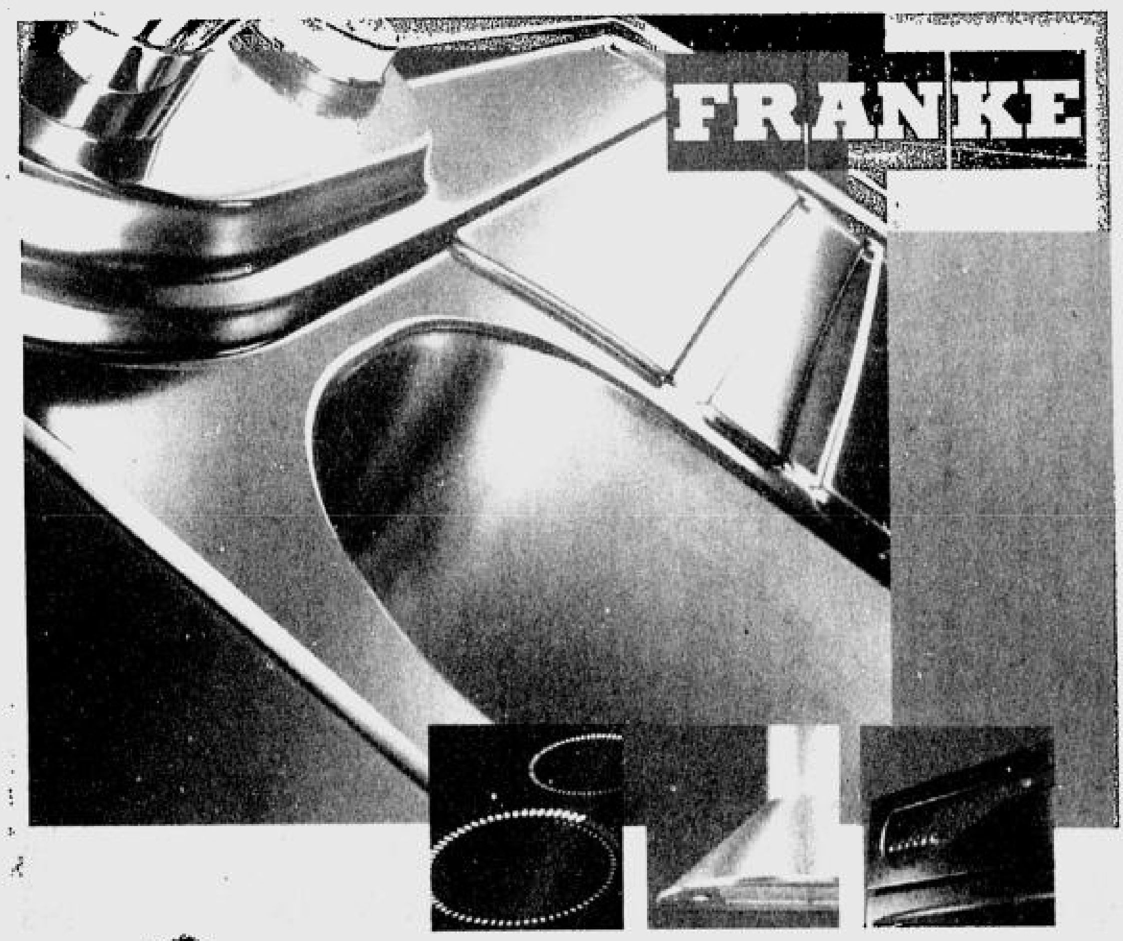

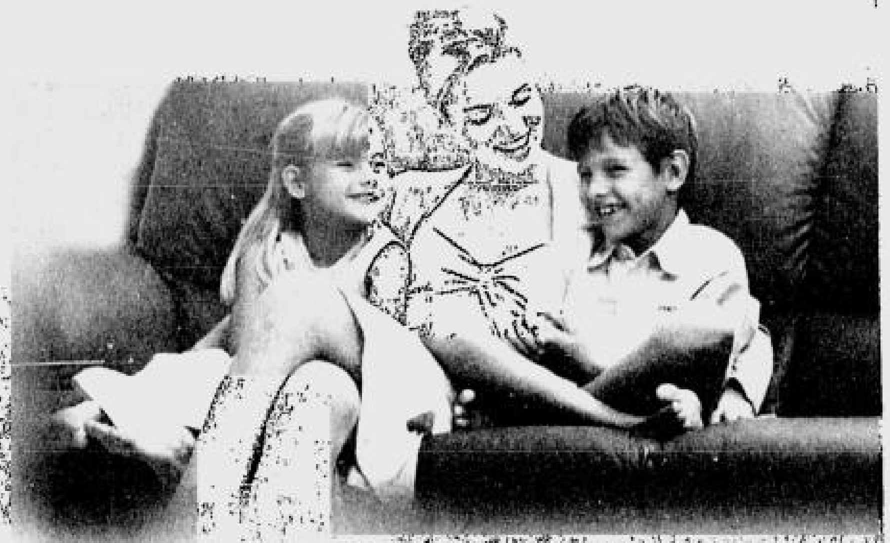

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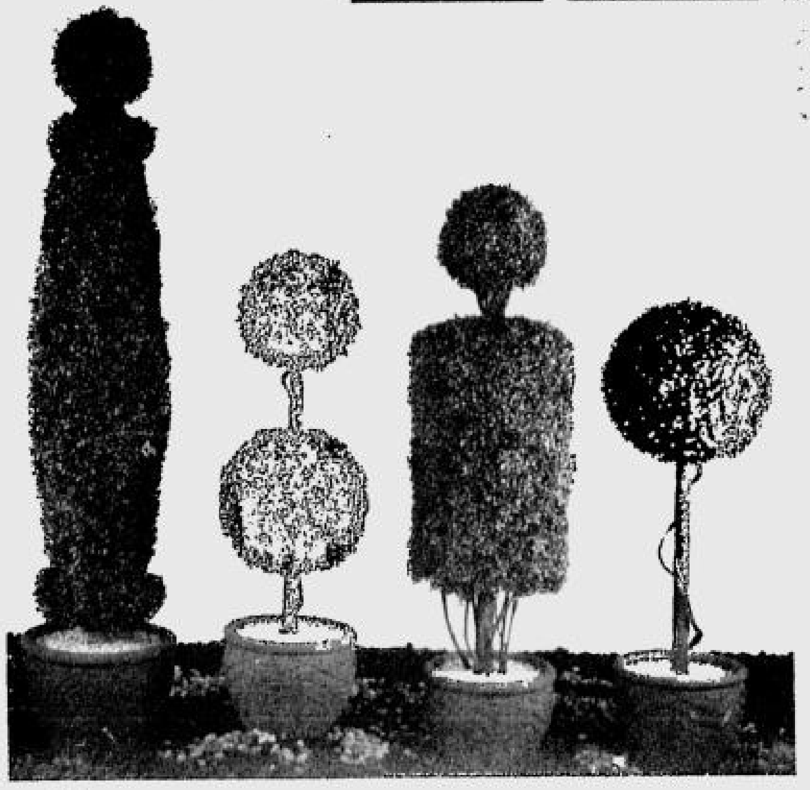

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Last but not the least, our prices are surprisingly reasonable and our after-sales service and parts replacement guarantee is one of the best in the business.

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Ms. Lyndia Y. Chin
President, Maco City

Greetings on the launch of the new MACO CITY store in Manila!

I remember my first visit in the Philippines in 1986. I was so fascinated with the country and its friendly, smiling people. I learned in the next few years how creative the Filipino can be. On so many fairs in Manila and Cebu, the last one in Pampanga, I saw and appreciated your unique products wrought with such wonderful craftmanship. A lot of these products I imported for my Maco chain of retail furniture stores in Germany.

In 1995, Ms. Lyndia Chin and I set up the first Maco store in the Philippines, located in the MC Homebuilders' building in Makati. The business became a resounding success and now with the new MACO CITY store, we're taking the concept a step further.This is the largest lifestyle center n the Philippines, where the best of European home design meets the best of Philippine craftmanship. Add to that the management savvy of my partner Ms. Lyndia Chin and her talented team of professionals and you've got the lifestyle center of the future - MACO CITY.

Mr. Rolf Rabe
Partner, Maco City

I would like to congratulate Furnimaxx International for choosing Quezon City to put up its largest lifestyle center in the Philippines. With its very interesting and wide selection of products and services, I am confident that they have made the right choice to locate its store in the heart of a very fast growing and densely populated business district just next to Eastwood City.

I also noticed that the store is nestled in a very congenial and calm atmosphere whereby clients can slowly browse through its wide selections of German kitchens, leather and fabric sofas, appliances, dining groups, artificial plants and outdoor furniture and accessories.

I wish you more power and successful business.

Hon. Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte
Mayor, Quezon City

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (April 26, 2003)

10:00 A.M.	Unveiling of the new Maco City by the Quezon City Mayor Honorable Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr.
10:15 A.M.	Opening remarks by Maco City partners Mr.Rolf Rabe and Ms. Lyndia Chin
10:30 A.M.	Lion and Dragon Dance Show
11:00 A.M	Live performance by one of the country's hottest jazz sensations *Guarana*, grooving to the electrifying beat of Brazilian tunes and Bossa Nova.
2:00 - 5:00 P.M.	Cooking demonstrations by international chefs.
5:00 - 10:00 P.M.	Swing to the rhythm of talk-of-the-town R&B group *Freshmen Band.*

To wrap-up an exciting day, cool prizes and premium items will be raffled-off!

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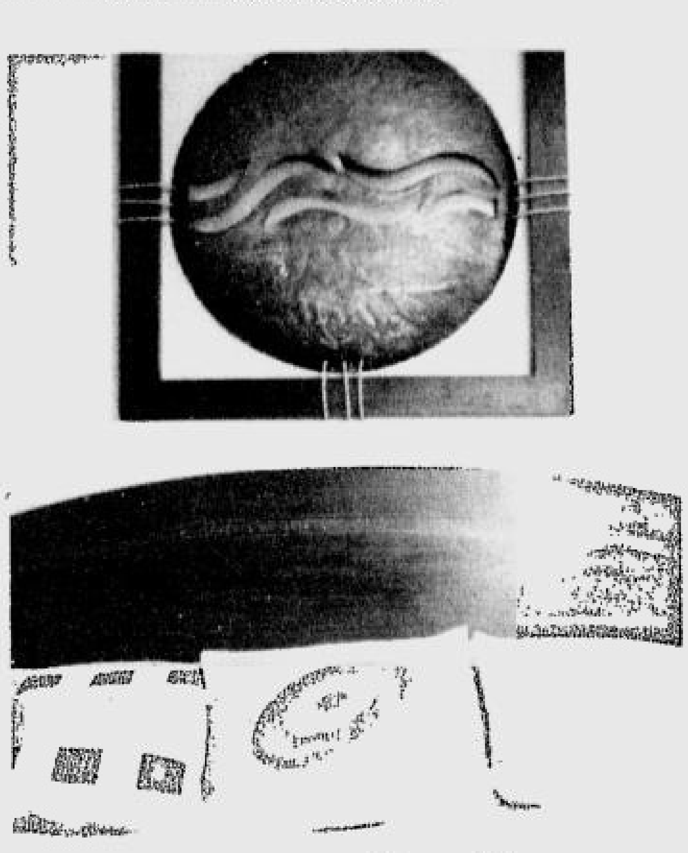

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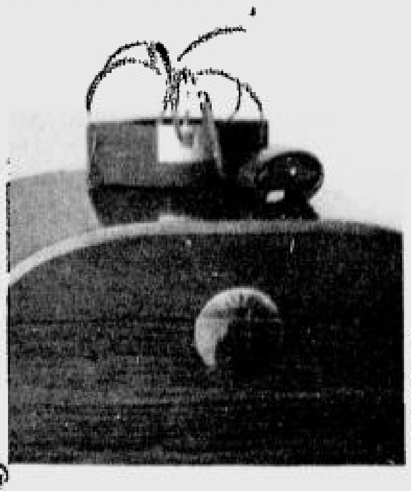

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cOsmic INFLUENCES

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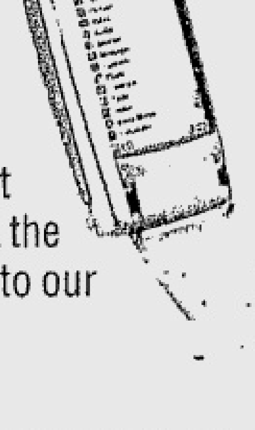

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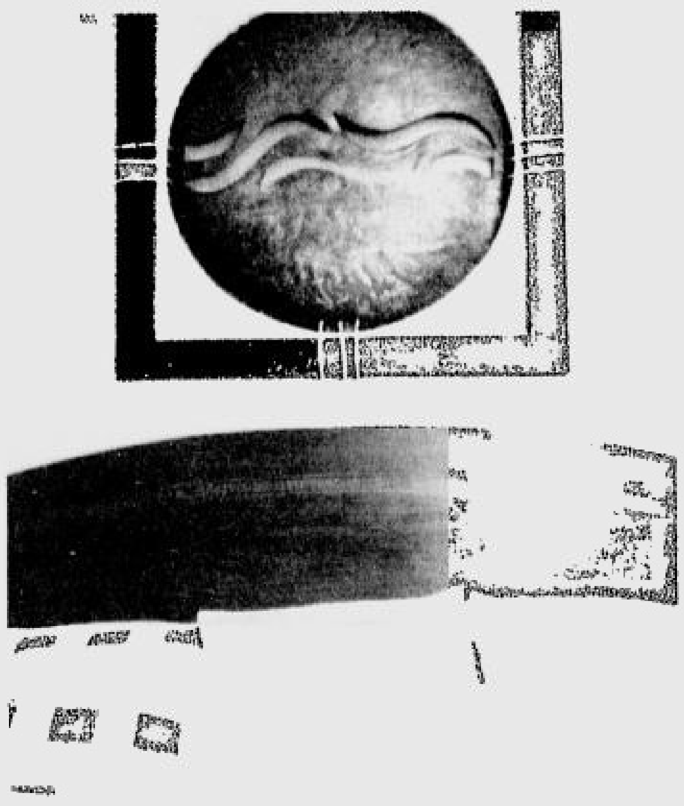

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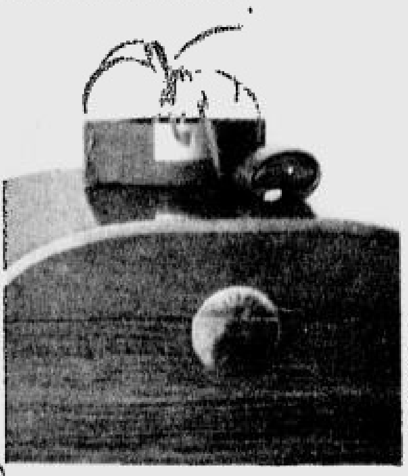

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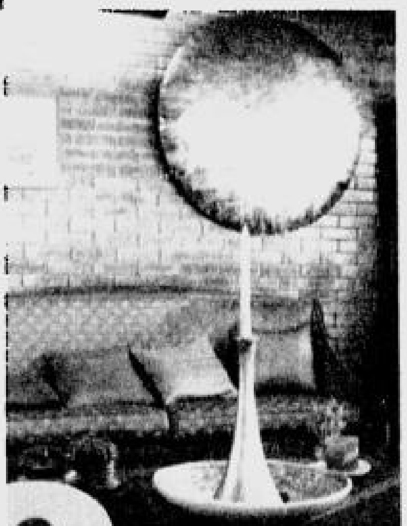

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Technology keeps evolving. Nokia has been churning out so many excellent phones lately, a "smartphone" was inevitable. We might ask, is it really wise to put everything but the kitchen sink into our phones? The challenge is to find a balance between practical usability and a host of other functions. That is wisdom in itself.

Ka-pamilya tour gears up for an electrifying summer at the Ever Malls!

BRACE yourselves as **ABS-CBN's Ka Pamilya Tour** heats up your summer with the hottest and most sizzling activities that you can enjoy with your *ka-barkada, ka-tropa* and your *ka-pamilya*! Get the chance to see your favorite stars from the biggest network in the country and be able to spend afternoons of pure fun and entertainment.

To start off the summer festivities, **ABS-CBN** and **Ever Gotesco Malls** bring you the ***Hot Stars Sa Ever*** series featuring the ***Klasbabes*** — namely **Michelle Estevez, Carlene Aguilar** and **Nicole Yabut** — from your favorite comedy and gag show ***Klasmeyts***. Catch them at **Ever Commonwealth on April 27** and at **Ever Ortigas on May 10**.

The fun doesn't stop here. ***Star Records*** and ***Ever Gotesco Malls*** have come into partnership to bring you the **Hokie Pokie Dance Contest**. Hokie Pokie is the latest dance craze that everybody in town has been talking about! With a music video featuring the **Ja-Boom Twins of Masayang Tanghali Bayan** and the **Big Men** dancers, Hokie Pokie is clearly making waves in the local dance music scene. Join in on the fun before you get left out!

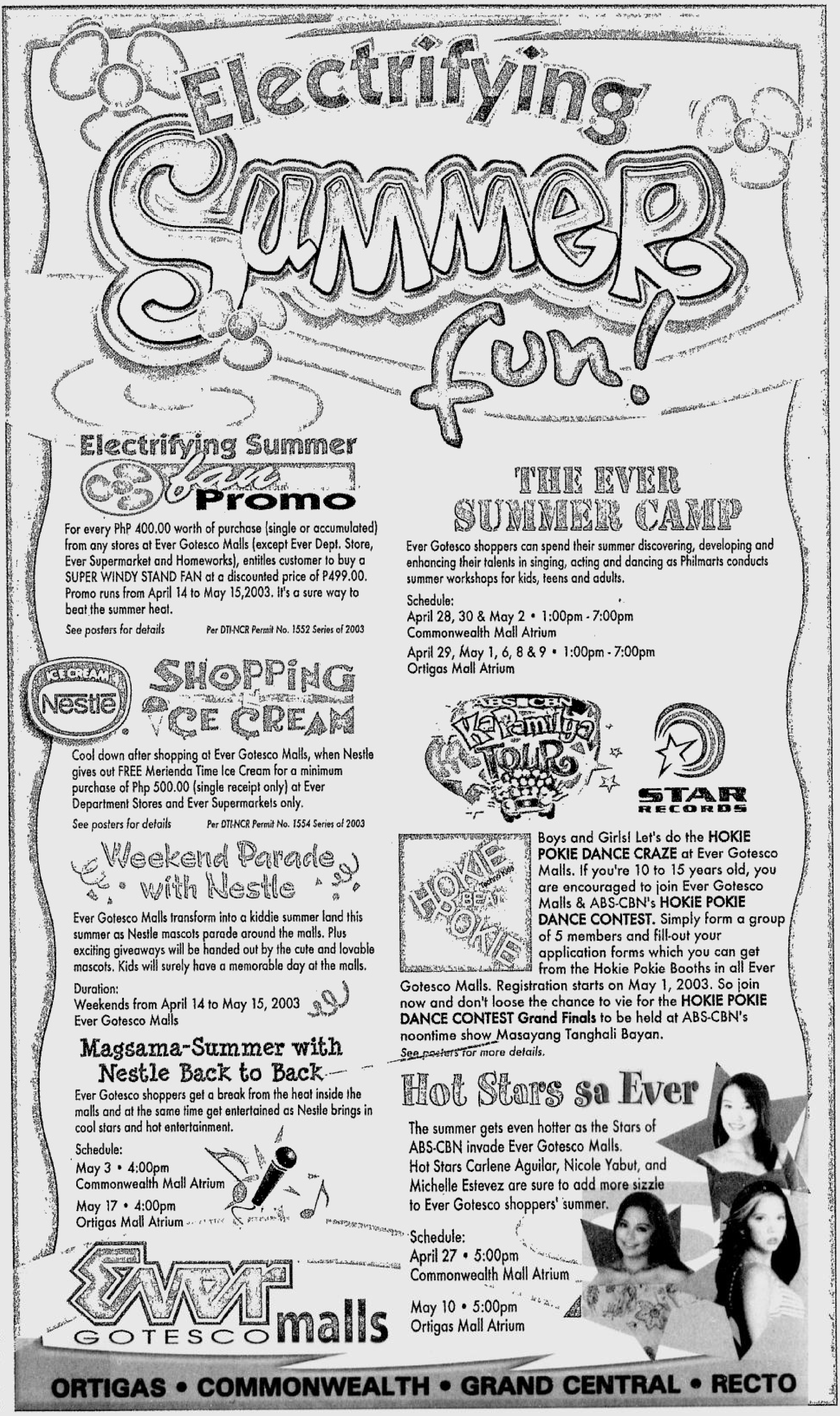
On **May 1**, the **Hokie Pokie Dance Contest** will be formally launched by way of a mall show at **Ever Commonwealth, 4PM** featuring the **Ja-Boom Twins** and their friends from **Masayang Tanghali Bayan**. Don't forget to check it out so you can familiarize yourselves with the dance steps. The **Ja-Boom Twins** will also be signing autographs after the show for the buyers of the Hokie Pokie album so you better take advantage of the chance to meet them up close!

The **Hokie Pokie Dance Contest** is open to males and females, ages ranging from ten to fifteen years old. Just form a dance group comprising of five members who will dance to Hokie Pokie based on the **Ja-Boom Twins'** dance steps. If by any chance you fail to watch the official launch on May 1, don't worry! You can visit any of the four **Ever Gotesco Malls (Ever Ortigas, Ever Grand Central, Ever Recto** and **Ever Commonwealth**) to view the instructional music video. TV monitors will be placed strategically within the malls for your viewing pleasure. You can also watch **MYX** and **Masayang Tanghali Bayan**, as well as other **ABS-CBN** programs to catch the Hokie Pokie music video and performances by the **Ja-Boom Twins** and **Big Men**.

Registration forms for the dance competition can also be found at the **Ever Gotesco Malls**. Fill it up and submit to the administration offices of the respective malls at least a week before the contest dates. Dates for the elimination rounds per mall are as follows: **May 18 at Ever Ortigas, May 24 at Ever Grand Central, May 31 at Ever Recto (Manila Plaza)** and **June 7 at Ever Commonwealth**. Winning groups from each mall will vie for the *Grand Finals* happening at **Masayang Tanghali Bayan on June 13, 2003** (TBC). For more details about the **Hokie Pokie Dance Contest**, check out the posters displayed within **Ever Gotesco Malls** as well as on the print ads on leading newspapers!

ABS-CBN has got more activities lined up for the summer at the **Ever Gotesco Malls**! Be sure to watch this space for updates. Plus, keep on watching **ABS-CBN** to know more about your favorite stars and their latest ***Ka-Pamilya Tour*** schedule.

ADVT.



Electrifying Summer Fun!

Electrifying Summer Fan Promo

For every PhP 400.00 worth of purchase (single or accumulated) from any stores at Ever Gotesco Malls (except Ever Dept. Store, Ever Supermarket and Homeworks), entitles customer to buy a SUPER WINDY STAND FAN at a discounted price of P499.00. Promo runs from April 14 to May 15,2003. It's a sure way to beat the summer heat.

See posters for details *Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1552 Series of 2003*

SHOPPING ICE CREAM

Cool down after shopping at Ever Gotesco Malls, when Nestle gives out FREE Merienda Time Ice Cream for a minimum purchase of Php 500.00 (single receipt only) at Ever Department Stores and Ever Supermarkets only.

See posters for details *Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1554 Series of 2003*

Weekend Parade with Nestle

Ever Gotesco Malls transform into a kiddie summer land this summer as Nestle mascots parade around the malls. Plus exciting giveaways will be handed out by the cute and lovable mascots. Kids will surely have a memorable day at the malls.

Duration:
Weekends from April 14 to May 15, 2003
Ever Gotesco Malls

Magsama-Summer with Nestle Back to Back

Ever Gotesco shoppers get a break from the heat inside the malls and at the same time get entertained as Nestle brings in cool stars and hot entertainment.

Schedule:
May 3 • 4:00pm
Commonwealth Mall Atrium
May 17 • 4:00pm
Ortigas Mall Atrium

THE EVER SUMMER CAMP

Ever Gotesco shoppers can spend their summer discovering, developing and enhancing their talents in singing, acting and dancing as Philmarts conducts summer workshops for kids, teens and adults.

Schedule:
April 28, 30 & May 2 • 1:00pm - 7:00pm
Commonwealth Mall Atrium
April 29, May 1, 6, 8 & 9 • 1:00pm - 7:00pm
Ortigas Mall Atrium

Boys and Girls! Let's do the **HOKIE POKIE DANCE CRAZE** at Ever Gotesco Malls. If you're 10 to 15 years old, you are encouraged to join Ever Gotesco Malls & ABS-CBN's **HOKIE POKIE DANCE CONTEST.** Simply form a group of 5 members and fill-out your application forms which you can get from the Hokie Pokie Booths in all Ever Gotesco Malls. Registration starts on May 1, 2003. So join now and don't loose the chance to vie for the **HOKIE POKIE DANCE CONTEST Grand Finals** to be held at ABS-CBN's noontime show Masayang Tanghali Bayan.

See posters for more details.

Hot Stars sa Ever

The summer gets even hotter as the Stars of ABS-CBN invade Ever Gotesco Malls. Hot Stars Carlene Aguilar, Nicole Yabut, and Michelle Estevez are sure to add more sizzle to Ever Gotesco shoppers' summer.

Schedule:
April 27 • 5:00pm
Commonwealth Mall Atrium
May 10 • 5:00pm
Ortigas Mall Atrium

Ever GOTESCO malls

ORTIGAS • COMMONWEALTH • GRAND CENTRAL • RECTO

Bohol, Mactan, Cebu for footloose Filipinos

HOLIDAY in Cebu. Seated: Jaime Picornell Teresin Mendezona Standing: Tina Lo, Anggie Lhuillier and Amparito Lhuillier

BOOM Fonacier

BOHOL Rep. Ed Chatto

By Becky Garcia
Contributor

EVEN Filipinos with wanderlust decided to stay put during Lent to enjoy local resorts, what with the worldwide SARS scare and the aftermath of the Iraqi war.

Our group chose the Bohol Beach Club, which has the longest, cleanest, white-sand beach in Panglao Island. From Mactan airport, we took a 25-minute helicopter ride and landed right in the resort premises. Our hosts **Boom Fonacier** and his father **Anos**, a veteran hotelier (Bayview, Cebu Plaza) have been working really hard to make Bohol Beach Club a world-class resort, especially in terms of water sports and scuba diving.

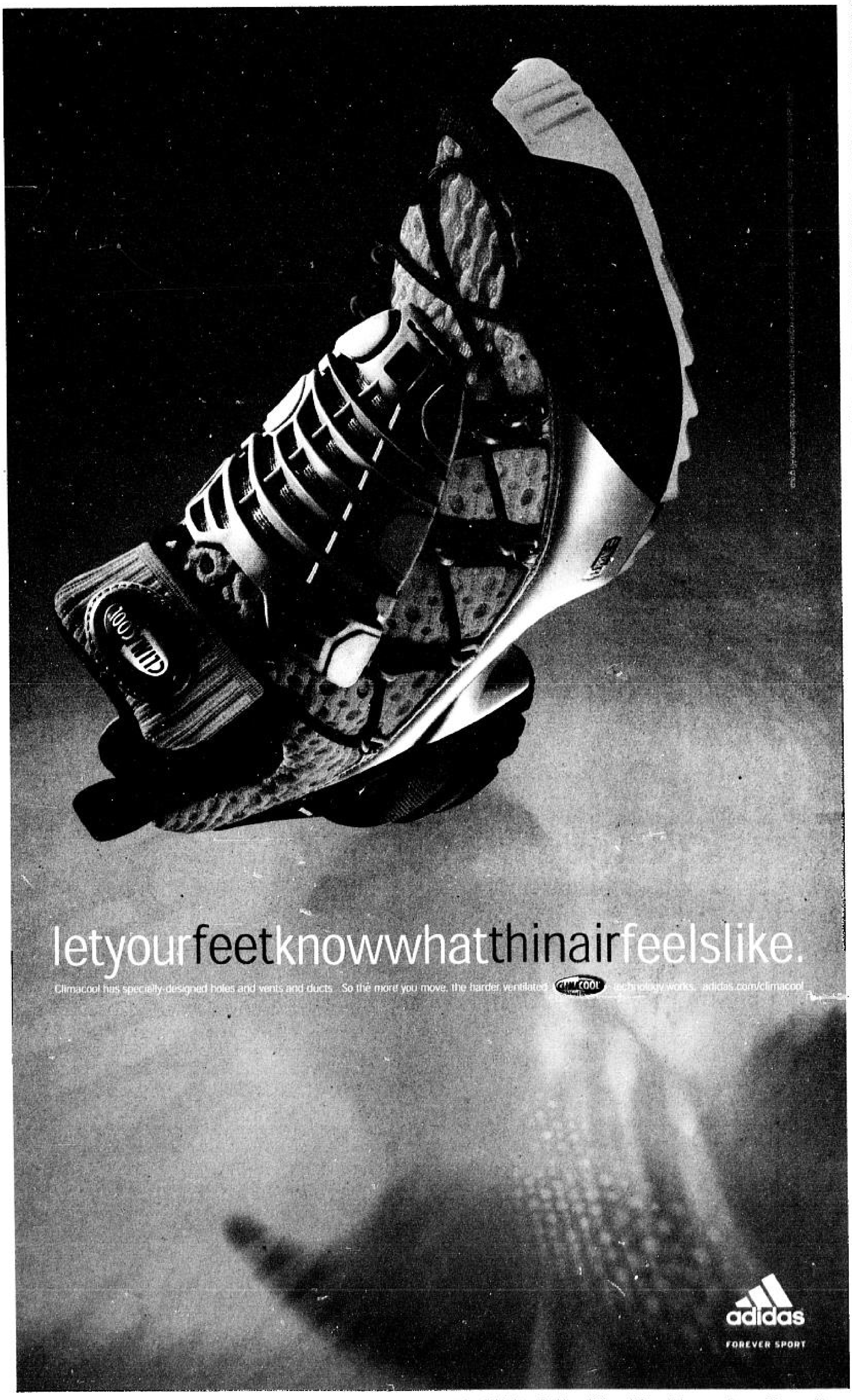
While having dinner out on the beach, we spotted actor **Cesar Montano** and former Ilocos Sur Governor **Chavit Singson** with friends **Jing** and **Ana Marin Espiritu**, **Peter Anderson** and his daughter **Nicole**.

Montano has been tapped to play the role of Singson in the latter's forthcoming bio-pic. Off-hours, the actor hies off to Bohol to rest, since he has a property in Panglao.

We also ran into Congressman **Ed Chatto**, who told us how proud he was that his province had become a popular destination.

Later, we sailed to Cebu and stayed at the Mactan Shangri-La Hotel, there to see some more familiar faces–Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza** and his family, former Tourism Secretary **Vince Carlos** and wife **Tina**, former actress **Daisy Romualdez** with director **Manny Borlaza**, movie producer **Donna Villa** and her husband, director **Carlo Caparas**.

For a little while, we enjoyed the private hideaway of **Michel** and **Amparito Lhuillier** in Sabang, Danao City, north of Cebu. The beautiful beach house sits on a three-hectare property, and is equipped with all the perks of a luxury resort. The Lhuilliers served a buffet of Thai specialties savored by guests Consul **Jaime Picornell**, **Rosebud Sala**, **Carmen** and **Henry Campbell**, **Teresin Mendezona**, son **Michael Lhuillier** and wife **Joana** (whose bags carrying her label, J. Lhuillier, are available at the Mactan Shangri-La).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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Editor Marge Enriquez
ÉLAN

Making sense of the Iraq war

By Georgina C. Solina
Contributor

WE are a race in crisis and in transition.

Based on the astrological chart of the "Strike on Iraq" (March 20, 2003, 3 a.m. GMT), which coincides with the coming of the Age of Aquarius, we are not just confronted with an unprecedented manifestation of international problems. The energies of the planets are also telling us that the mounting upheavals are merely a perception whose true meaning and significance we are unable to determine.

The Iraqi war is unlike no other war in the past. This is a human conflict that has been prophesied in sacred texts as crucial in terms of its responsibility to bring about a new age and a new world order. This may well be the long predicted clash of civilizations induced by religious fundamentalism, except that the attendant violence runs counter to being "civilized." For a war chart, this sounds incredible. It calls on us to have an open mind about all that's happening in the world now.

Material vs mystical

Foremost, the chart shows that we are now in the last stages of Pisces (sign of peace) as the equinox moves to Aquarius, as indicated by the Sun's position on March 20, 2003. This is the defining year of the Aquarian Age.

Two important planetary formations rule the Iraqi war chart–the Mystical Rectangle and the Grand Trine.

The Mystical Rectangle's appearance is a powerful sign that explains the mystical aspect of human life on earth. Mystical tendencies show if a person is equipped for attuning to the Divine through alchemy, prayer and meditation on a regular basis.

In this chart, there emerges a breed of people "in the pursuit of studies too profound to be accessible to middle-class mentality." Instead of trying to mend what is broken in society, they focus on creating a completely new world, the utopian Garden of Eden. To them, the only things that need repair are hearts and minds. They understand the laws that govern life, are able to draw out the values that enrich relationships, and are naturally drawn to spirituality.

The Grand Trine or planet formation that looks like an inverted pyramid indicates that the world is still materialistic, exploitative and acquisitive.

Together, the Mystical Rectangle and the Grand Trine present a cosmic confrontation of polarities. On the one hand, the allied nations have been displaying ego and anger. On the other, there has been emphasis on humanitarian activities, with all-out aid and missions.

Misunderstood president

The most important player in the war is arguably the most misunderstood. The war chart indicates a visionary leader (Jupiter on 8 degrees Leo). Leo stands for a head of state, most likely referring to President George W. Bush.

Jupiter is retrograde, which means the planet is not moving in a direct motion, not following linear time. It moves in a cycle, fusing the past, present and future in the eternal. By initiating the war, Bush became the instrument who will make us realize that whatever is happening is exactly what is meant to be. We are made to understand that the playing out of patterns of emotions and actions between parties have been ongoing for ages.

MAKING/ D3

Buyers turn to Federal Land for chic condos

More Filipino buyers are flocking to Federal Land, Inc. for condominiums set in the communities with character. It is clear that buyers are responding with enthusiasm to a powerful combination of elegance, quality and vitality. "*Federal Land, Inc. takes pride in projects that offer luxury features, quality construction, recreational facilities and tranquil natural spaces. In addition, Federal Land communities have strong appeal because of their location in areas that have exceptional vitality.*" Federal Land FVP for marketing Ramon Aldaba said.

Federal Land's customers tend to be those who thrive on the excitement of more urbanized locations where they can walk to everything and be part of a variety of recreational, culinary and cultural venues. These people may have lived in a quiet suburban neighborhood for years and are looking for a change of pace. Whatever the circumstances, they are choosing a lifestyle as well as a residence, and that lifestyle includes being close to the pulse of their community.

Settling in at Valencia Hills

Federal Land communities are designed to have a distinctive character that blends innovative architecture with the ultimate in comfort and quality amenities. A prime example is Valencia Hills, a 22-storey, twin tower residential condominium strategically located near schools, major shopping centers and business establishments in San Juan and Quezon City.

At only six units per floor, space for comfort is assured. The building features a variety of one-to-three bedroom and penthouse units; fully air-conditioned multi-purpose room; a chapel / prayer room; an indoor gym and a swimming pool with heated Jacuzzi; a reliable building management, fire protection and 24-hour security system.

To add to this excitement, Valencia Hills is on N. Domingo corner Valencia Sts., Quezon City, right in the heart of major business and commercial centers near Greenhills and Ortigas. Residents can shop to their heart's content at SM Centerpoint, Unimart Greenhills, Robinson's Galleria or the Podium. Long known for academic excellence, La Salle Greenhills, Xavier School, ICA, OB Montessori and Poveda adds intellectual and cultural activities in the area and professionals working at the Ortigas Center will certainly find Valencia Hills an irresistible attraction.

Interested parties may inquire about Federal Land's special financing packages by calling its marketing arm, Omni Orient Marketing Network, Inc. at tel. Nos. 810-4692 to 95 or by logging onto www.federalland.com.ph Federal Land, Inc. is a member of the Metrobank Group of Companies.

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Taking it to the streets

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Val Handumon

SEVEN SAMURAIS. LZ Punzalan's take on Japanese culture. The top is sewn from seven fabrics, using air-cool knits and nylon, and cotton pants. The model wears Adidas' E.M. Comp, inspired by the cycling shoe worn by Eddy Merckx. It's got perforated leather grain leather uppers.

ANDY DANDY. James Reyes' pillowcase blouse with Warhol-ish Miss Universe images, worn with an A-line skirt and classic Italia running shoes, popular among track and table tennis champions,of soft kangaroo leather upper.

HANG LOOSE. Basketball jersey shirt with a wide ribbed waistband. The large Trefoil trademark signifies Adidas' premium line. Punzalan combines it with a utilitarian skirt.

GOTTA FLY NOW. Ivar Aseron's homage to 'Rocky,' in an androgynous version. The model is shod in Adidas Italia and soccer socks.

SKIRTING THE ISSUE. Mel Vergel de Dios' air-cool knit shirts with garters and cutouts are teamed with deconstructed denim skirts. Worn with Adidas' Montreal moccasins construction with a heel wrap, which originally became famous among professional football players.

WITH sportswear taking to the streets, major brands are digging up their archives and giving their apparel and footwear a new twist. In their heyday, these styles were exclusive to the fields, gyms or arenas. Today they've been reinterpreted in vivid colors and techno fabrics, designed for the fashion-savvy.

Bullish about its marketing strategy, Adidas launched the Originals/ Sports Heritage Division two years ago to help establish brand legitimacy in the lifestyle market. The major styles from the archives are interpreted as fashion pieces and replicas of famous sportswear are done in limited editions.

For instance, track suits with the classic three stripes branding are rendered in leather and sold at P70,000. The Monaco GP racing boots have everything a driver needs–quilted nylon uppers and gum rubber outsole with Goodyear racing tire-inspired traction profile. The only difference is that it's not fire retardant since it's now a fashion shoe. The gymnastic slipper is remade into soft leather Mary-janes with velcro foot straps that can be worn anywhere.

Trend literate

Adidas developed its "Assisted Discovery" strategy to hit the right audience with the right products in a subtle way. Instead of the hard-sell approach, these items–relaunched as up-market–are associated with the trend-literate who have personal links with the "old school" or classic Trefoil logo. Although Adidas targets Gen XYZ, it's really the baby boomers who wax nostalgic about the Originals. It was in '70s and '80s that Adidas was a status symbol in the Philippines and the whole sporting world, a favorite of international athletes.

During the recent Fashion Week at the Glorietta Activity Center, Adidas eschewed traditional marketing tactics such as streamers, handouts and stalls. Instead, it established its presence in fashion shows for the young, and senior designers interpreted its Originals/ Sports Heritage collection. Keeping the "Assisted Discovery" strategy in mind, the designers showed how classic Adidas pieces could look young, hip and even wacky.

Fashion Week's concept was born out of Adidas' inviting Yohji Yamomoto to design its footwear and apparel. The experience apparently made Yamamoto relive his youth, when Adidas was such a hot brand, it inspired the new sports lifestyle collection, Y3.

The Young Designers Guild's focused on sportswear glam during Fashion Week. Keeping summer dressing in mind, the designers chose light and airy silhouettes. The four designers featured on this page had clear concepts. It's interesting to note that a couple of them interpreted New Androgyny–YDG president Mel Vergel de Dios with his skirts for men, and Ivalurski Aseron with his satin silk and pastel boxer robe and shorts.

For shirts, Vergel de Dios used aircool knits, the fabric with tiny perforations that lets the skin breathe and enables the sweat to evaporate. These were matched with the Adidas shoe with perforated toe caps. To give the shirt shape, the designer added garters. Cutouts were sewn onto the shirts and accented with piping. Instead of denim jeans, the designer made his men wear skirts, deconstructing the pattern by making the hemline look like waistbands, and the waistbands like hems. Patch pockets were also accentuated with contrasting piping.

"Even if men wear skirts, they should still look masculine," said Vergel de Dios, a self-taught designer who also has an RTW label under his name.

Status symbol

Remember the "Rocky" movies of the '70s and '80s? Aseron's millennium version of Rocky is the new male of the Zeros–one who isn't ashamed of showing his feminine side. Silk-satin boxer robes flowed sensuously, sleeves were gartered for a blousy effect.

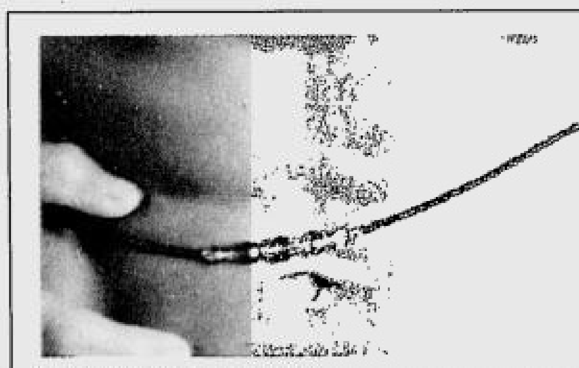
To advertising creative director-slash-designer James Reyes, summer means beauty pageants. He paid tribute to Miss Universe Gloria Diaz by downloading a photograph of hers from the Internet and printing multiple images of the then young beauty queen. The graphics were plasterd on a rectangular blouse with gathers. He called it the *"punda"* or pillowcase top, worn with a long A-line skirt and accented with cut-off soccer socks as gloves, and Adidas running shoes. The look was pop art, but wearable.

The youngest in the group, Louie Punzalan, is still a fashion and merchandising student at the College of St. Benilde. However, the 24-year-old is already a designer for Tyler. Punzalan adapted elements of Japanese pop culture and tradition–martial arts sashes and pants, hand paintings on the back of the shirts with Japanese motifs and multi-colored appliqués. He fused them with references from baseball–raglan sleeves and plackets. For the women, he played around with straps and belts, his version of utilitarian chic.

All these designers accessorized their clothes with Adidas footwear.

Adidas experienced double-digit growth in the first quarter of this year, based on figures for the same time last year. More women have been buying the performance clothes for their gym workouts. The men, still conservative, favor the top seller–the three-striped polo and tee. Because these selections are seen in more outlets, and also because, prominent people have lately been photographed in Adidas, the brand has once again become a status symbol.

> In their heyday, these were exclusive to the fields. gyms or arenas. Today they've been reinterpreted in vivid colors and techno fabrics. designed for the fashion-savvy.



Hold me closer, tiny dancer

Photos by Patrick Uy Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

GOOD things do come in small packages. Gymnast-turned-dancer Julie Alagde, for example: barely five feet tall, all of 88 lbs., and with a 21-inch waistline.

The former No. 1 rhythmic gymnast in the country, once member of Powerdance, has just landed a role in the Australian theater production of "The Lion King." But while waiting for rehearsals, she teaches at Steps, former ballerina Sofia Zobel-Elizalde's dance studio.

This tiny dancer was born on July 16, 1976. She studied ballet as a child under Joji Felix-Velarde, then took up basic gymnastics at age 11. Studies at Manila Science High School forced her to give up extracurricular activities.

But as fate would have it, at around that time (1990) the Malaysian gymnastics team was visiting Manila and introduced a new performance art form, rhythmic gymnastics. By way of sharing their knowledge with Filipinos, the Malaysians set out to form a counterpart team. Out of 100 who auditioned, 20 passed, and among these lucky few was Alagde. After one more year of training, only 11 girls remained.

Alagde explains that rhythmic gymnastics is dance-oriented, as most of it is done on the floor. The rhythmic gymnast uses rope, hoop, ball, clubs and ribbons in the routines.

Training? Try 'torture'

To say that training was gruelling, is an understatement. The Philippines imported Bulgarian coaches who imposed exacting standards. Making it more difficult was the stringent diet. The girls lived from day to day on water, one hard-boiled egg, and a packet of crackers. Alagde says it was sheer drive for perfection that fueled them through the long hours. When the girls started to weaken, the coach would allow them to rest for a few minutes, drink water, and then return to the routine. They weren't even allowed to take the usual energy drinks because these contained chocolate and sugar. Other girls took extreme measures, such as downing laxatives and slimming teas to be as slight as the parallel bars.

Up till now, Alagde has maintained a strict diet. She's a lacto-ovo vegetarian, and eschews sweets. Her only indulgence is pasta.

As No. 1 in her field and the country's representative, she won a bronze and a silver medal in the '93 and '95 Southeast Asian Games, respectively, and fourth place in the Asian Games.

While majoring in Physical Education at the University of the Philippines, she received a flyer about Douglas Nierras' Powerdance studio. She decided to check out the place, with the simple intention of cross-training. What happened was, Nierras exposed her to a different mindset altogether.

When the gymnastics teams got fractious, Alagde decided to "retire." She was 19. And with her impressive credentials, plus a rubber body with the strength of steel, she joined Powerdance.

Nierras, Alagde recalls, didn't like fragile-looking dancers because it didn't reflect the spirit of the company, or justify its name. The principals, Para Isidro and Jaime del Prado, were muscular. Nierras required his girls to lift weights and build sleek muscles. He demanded performance quality in all his classes and rehearsals. He pushed his dancers to the limits. Her five years with the company were fulfilling, she says, as she performed and traveled a lot.

Passing it on

In the past few years, Alagde has been going to New York, dance capital of America, to take up classes. Lately, she's been passing on the acquired knowledge to her students at Steps Dance Studio. In the mornings, she gives a mat class designed for people with back or joint problems. The class consists of Pilates-based exercises, yoga, the Alexander technique, and some modern dance routines. She also teaches jazz, and the Horton modern dance technique.

To win the role for "The Lion King," Alagde topped 300 aspirants from the Philippines. Then she went for another round of auditions with dancers from neighboring countries. Fortunately, the auditions consisted of Horton-based movements, which many of the other dancers found foreign.

Another Filipino in the cast is thespian Noni Buencamino. The show will run for a year in Sydney, starting on Oct. 16.

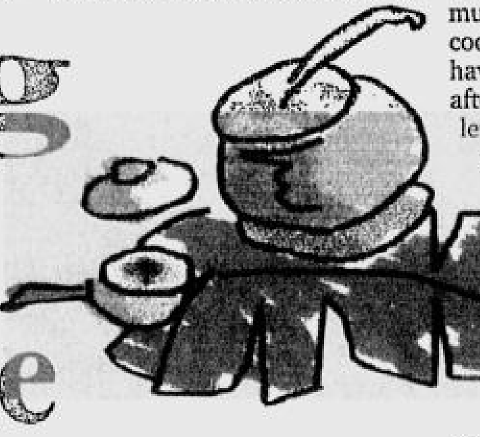
Because she knows how to summon the courage to operate from the heard, Julie Alagde is headed for more success. *Marge C. Enriquez*

(JULIE HOLDS RHYTHMIC GYMAMNASTICS AND FITNESS CLASSES AT STEPS FOR DETAILS VISIT THEIR OFFICE AT C1 BLDG KARRIVIN PLAZA. 2316 CHINO ROCES AVE (FORMERLY PASONG TAMO EXT) MAKATI CITY OR CALL 843-8472OR 757-2984)

Jewelry by Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales

Making our mark in Melbourne

By Amando Doronila



FOR the first time since the postwar migration of Filipinos to Australia, the Filipino community in Melbourne will hold Philippine festivals for six months, from June to November 2003, to showcase their country's culture–crafts, music and cuisine–to Melbourne's multi-ethnic population.

The festivals are initiated by the Philippine honorary Consul General in Victoria, Maina Walkley. With this project, the Filipino community, which is already one the largest Asian communities in the state, is catching up with what other communities–especially, the Italian and Greek–have been doing to stamp their cultural mark in Victoria.

The festivals program somehow has a resemblance to the successful French spring in Manila, staged by the French embassy. The phases of the festivals are the Philippine textile exhibition in June to August, the Philippine food festival, on Sept. 3-5, the Philippine contemporary arts exhibition in October, the Filipino contemporary gamelan music in October, and the Philippine fiesta in November at the Philippine community center in Fitzroy suburb.

The festivals mark the expansion of the Filipino's cultural activity to make known their presence from the traditional annual Fiesta Filipina, which is nothing more than a weekend gathering where Filipinos come together to exchange gossip and put up stalls on the level of quality of flea markets.

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The Lion, the Devil and the Filipino

By Martin Valdes
Contributor

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The only roar to be heard is the occasional departure of an airplane, which did not cause fear and wonder amongst the natives below. Talk about being gypped by National Geographic.

Although this isn't the first time I've been to the continent–some years back, I was in Morocco searching for camels–this is the first time I've been to Southern Africa, specifically, South Africa. The friend who was to be my tour guide for the next few weeks while I explored Cape Town showed up driving a compact Peugeot with the steering wheel on the wrong side.

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There is a legend that, once upon a time, an old sea captain was challenged by the devil to a pipe-smoking competition on top of Table Mountain. As all good Christian stories go, the devil lost, and to this day, when a wreath of clouds obscures the top of the mountain, they say the devil and the old captain are at it again.

As I stand atop Table Mountain and gaze at the truly awesome view surrounding me, it's difficult to decide what to spend my time gawking at. The city at its base sparkles, the Atlantic beckons, and magnificent rock formations compete for my attention. Not the least of these is a small peak beside Table Mountain, shaped like the king of the beasts and aptly named Lion's Head. Cape Town is inspired, no doubt, but also inspiring. I can't help but think of the dramatic similarities between this African gem and my Pearl of the Orient–from our being discovered by a Portuguese explorer, our subjugation, independence and current growing-up pains, to our love affair with good food and the laid-back lifestyle, and the natural resources we have been blessed with. Okay, so they have Table Mountain and we have Smoky Mountain, but we have the Sex Bomb girls, whereas I don't think they've achieved that state of high culture yet. Cape Town is a beautiful city in a beautiful country. I only hope they let me back in one day. I light one last cigarette because the devil may need some help.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Making sense

From page D1

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As his inflated ego begins to diminish, Bush will have realization. A big change is coming in the way people will perceive truth, beauty, wisdom, dignity, and peace that are based on human principles.

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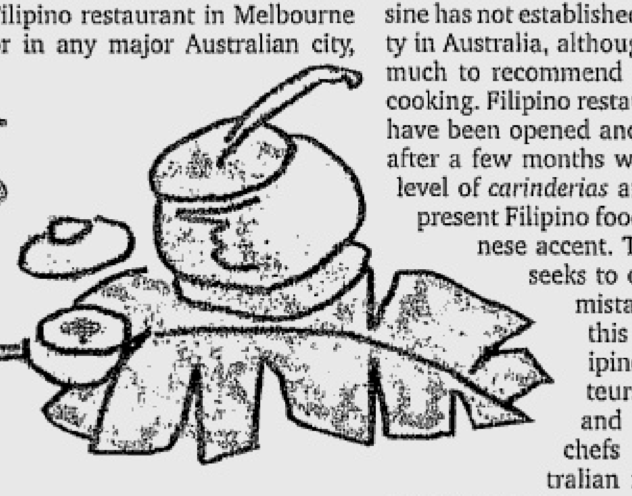
Making our mark in Melbourne

By Amando Doronila



FOR the first time since the postwar migration of Filipinos to Australia, the Filipino community in Melbourne will hold Philippine festivals for six months, from June to November 2003, to showcase their country's culture–crafts, music and cuisine–to Melbourne's multi-ethnic population.

The festivals are initiated by the Philippine honorary Consul General in Victoria, Maina Walkley. With this project, the Filipino community, which is already one the largest Asian communities in the state, is catching up with what other communities–especially, the Italian and Greek–have been doing to stamp their cultural mark in Victoria.

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STRATONE
TEPH BRAM

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DEPRESSION IS GRIEF OVER THE LOSS OF A DREAM

American psychologist Diane Tillman dissects this 'difficult low' that spares no one these days, not even children

DEPRESSION is a difficult "low."

The pain, misery or sadness can be intense, and is often accompanied by a fear of permanence–that the feeling will never go away.

In children, depression often occurs as a response to loss, or to a perceived negative change of environment. They may be mourning the death of a parent, reacting to a non-nurturing or unsafe atmosphere, or simply feeling rejected by their peers. Depression is part of grief over the loss of a dream.

Every human shares a common dream: a desire to be happy and content within, to be loved and valued in relationships and to be part of a secure world.

In a state of deep depression or intense emotional pain, the feelings can be overwhelming. There is almost a "wailing" inside. This intense suffering is usually out of proportion–the pain is much larger than the precipitating event.

The reason is that, pain is a compilation of the feelings undergone when feeling abandoned. Once this is understood, it is easier to put the current precipitating event in perspective, and focus on healing that well of hurt. The energy of love experienced through meditation, and the change in the perception of the self, are invaluable aids in healing that buried pain.

It is common knowledge that most people, when dealing with grief, go through the stages of denial, depression, anger, negotiation, and acceptance. Those who are chronically depressed have unresolved traumas–or some chemical imbalance. When people have been depressed for many years, constantly feel heavy, or become suicidal, psychological treatment is imperative.

Unnecessary torment

In my work with people who are not chemically imbalanced, depression is the result of being stuck in the grieving process. They often feel something missing, or else an inability to resolve the internal issues on their own. I have occasionally seen wonderful people who get mired in depression for several months or longer–unnecessarily.

Some thoughts or emotions are deeply linked to core personality perceptions.

A common pitfall is to deny negative feelings in an effort to be "good." While a goal is to be so full of contentment and self-esteem that negativity cannot touch one, to deny emotions is harmful. Old habits should occasionally re-emerge so that there can be a complete transformational process.

Denial of anger, for instance, can be common in people who are trying to be good. Yet there is great benefit in recognizing anger. It is only when we can look at the root can we break through the process and transform.

Anger is a secondary or tertiary emotion. Underneath is hurt and/or fear. Rather than rejected, these should be understood and dealt with constructively.

When negative emotions are denied, it would often take more energy for a person to bounce back to his former level of happiness. If an event comes up at this time of resolution, even more negative reactions could emerge. One person may react angrily, another may feel worthless, another may see himself as a failure. These can all lead to depression.

Be gentle

Sometimes, patients re-enact old family dynamics and decide that an important mentor in their life–or even God–does not really value or love them. At other times, they are angry with another person or with God because of dissatisfaction with their current situation.

Sometimes there is guilt, rather than understanding the process of transformation and being gentle with the self. Feeling guilty and criticizing the self lowers the energy level. On the other hand, recognizing and appreciating each emerging quality allows us to lighten up.

An invaluable method in conquering depression is to develop self-esteem based on the eternal core qualities of the self. Contemplate on your virtues. Enjoy contentment, lightness, benevolence and patience.

Take a spiritual phrase that makes you feel wonderful, and enjoy "being" that during the day as you work, cook and walk around. Feed the mind with beautiful thoughts. The mind is naturally active and will bring up the old if it is not fed more nourishing food.

Another way to redirect a tendency to get depressed is to develop a gentle parent within. Examine the way you treat yourself in "self-talk." Recognize any internalized critical, depreciating, guilt-inducing or blaming thoughts that have been internalized. Develop your own gentle parent.

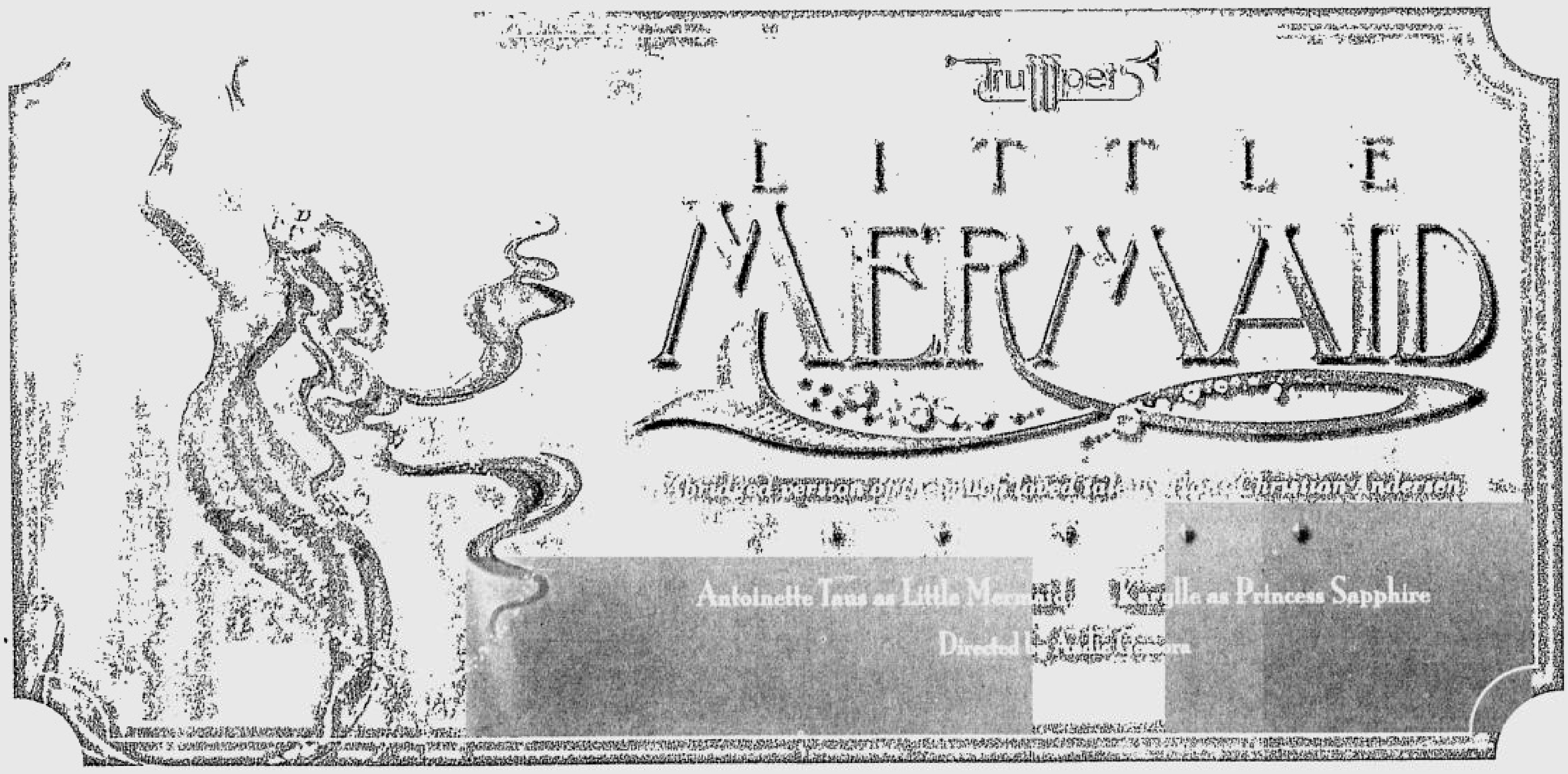
Do not compare yourself with others This elicits either inferiority or superiority. This happens when you take your worth from the outside factors, instead of staying centered.

Physical routine

When one is depressed, walking and exercise help maintain chemical balance. Enough sleep and a healthy diet that is low in sugar and caffeine is also important. Talking with someone who values you can bring about a pressure-relieving perspective.

If you must look at an emotional root, look gently. Allow yourself to experience what you are feeling at that moment in time, surround yourself with the light of love. More important, allow God to help. Find a relationship with Him through which you can receive love and strength.

Within each event, there is something beautiful to be learned. It may be a new awareness of the importance and beauty of a virtue. With each realization, we get closer to our dream of happiness and security.



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DEPRESSION IS GRIEF OVER THE LOSS OF A DREAM

American psychologist Diane Tillman dissects this 'difficult low' that spares no one these days, not even children

DEPRESSION is a difficult "low."

The pain, misery or sadness can be intense, and is often accompanied by a fear of permanence–that the feeling will never go away.

In children, depression often occurs as a response to loss, or to a perceived negative change of environment. They may be mourning the death of a parent, reacting to a non-nurturing or unsafe atmosphere, or simply feeling rejected by their peers. Depression is part of grief over the loss of a dream.

Every human shares a common dream: a desire to be happy and content within, to be loved and valued in relationships and to be part of a secure world.

In a state of deep depression or intense emotional pain, the feelings can be overwhelming. There is almost a "wailing" inside. This intense suffering is usually out of proportion–the pain is much larger than the precipitating event.

The reason is that, pain is a compilation of the feelings undergone when feeling abandoned. Once this is understood, it is easier to put the current precipitating event in perspective, and focus on healing that well of hurt. The energy of love experienced through meditation, and the change in the perception of the self, are invaluable aids in healing that buried pain.

It is common knowledge that most people, when dealing with grief, go through the stages of denial, depression, anger, negotiation, and acceptance. Those who are chronically depressed have unresolved traumas–or some chemical imbalance. When people have been depressed for many years, constantly feel heavy, or become suicidal, psychological treatment is imperative.

Unnecessary torment

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Trumpets
LITTLE MERMAID
Abridged version of the much loved tale by Hans Christian Andersen
Antoinette Taus as Little Mermaid
Karylle as Princess Sapphire
Directed by Audie Gemora

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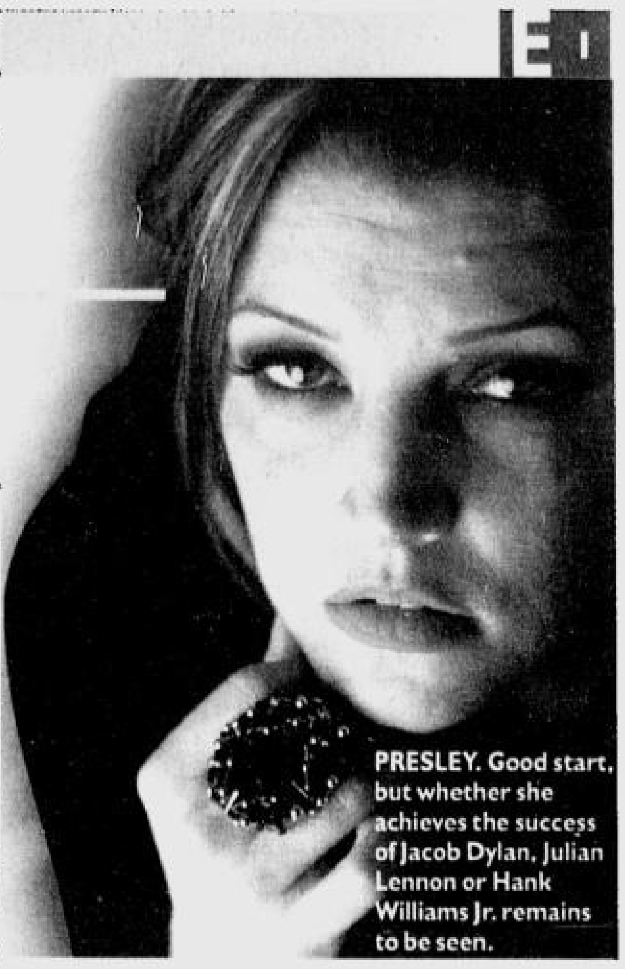
SATURDAY Special
Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ● *Associate Editor* **Edmund L. Sicam**

Lisa Marie Presley makes respectable album debut

By Steve Gorman



PRESLEY. Good start, but whether she achieves the success of Jacob Dylan, Julian Lennon or Hank Williams Jr. remains to be seen.

LOS ANGELES—Some 25 years after the death of her legendary father, Lisa Marie Presley recently claimed her own place in the pop charts with a respectable No. 5 opening for her debut album, "To Whom It May Concern."

Introspective collection

The album, an introspective collection of songs whose lyrics were written mostly by the 35-year-old performer, sold 142,000 copies on its first week in release by EMI Group Plc.'s Capitol Records, according to retail sales tracker Nielsen SoundScan.

That was enough to edge out R&B love man Ginuwine's latest release, "The Senior," from the top five. But Presley was crowded out of the chart's highest rungs by the No. 1 opening of hard rock group Godsmack's third album, "Faceless," followed by metal band Linkin Park's "Meteora," rap artist 50 Cent's "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" and the latest "Now" compilation of various artists.

Still, the debut of Elvis Presley's only child, coming a quarter century after the "king of rock 'n' roll" passed into history, marked a solid start for the latest in a long line of pop music progeny following in

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Don't Dream It's Over	Donny Osmond	heynow
Come Away With Me	Norah Jones	comeaway
Roam	B-52's	roam
Rock The Boat	Hush Corporation	rockboat
Conga	Gloria Estefan	conga
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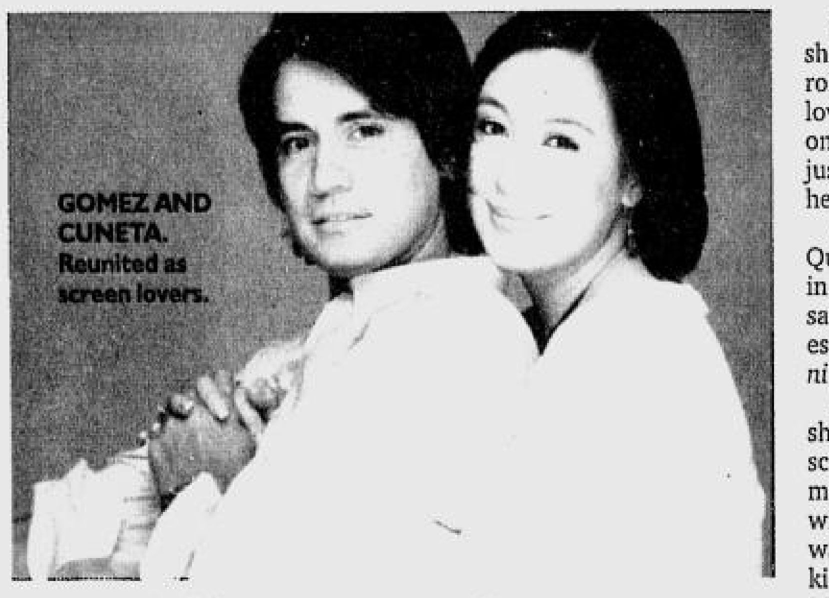
Sharon and Richard play more mature film roles

By Edmund L. Sicam



GOMEZ AND CUNETA. Reunited as screen lovers.

SHARON Cuneta and Richard Gomez are reunited as onscreen lovers in the film, "Walang Kapalit," directed by Joel Lamangan with screenplay by Raquel Villavicencio. Joining them as supporting actors are Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao.

"*Maganda sa amin ni* Sharon, *di na kami naiilang sa isa't isa. Maganda iyung* working relationship *namin,*" relates Gomez.

Husband and wife

What people are excited about is the shower scene involving Sharon and Richard. In the movie, they play a husband and wife who, while undergoing the process of annulment, realize that they are meant for each other after all. The shower scene happens during the reconciliation process.

Sharon, known for her portrayals of wholesome characters, understandably had qualms about doing the scene.

Richard recalls, "*Parang kinakabahan siya. Kahit na* when we were doing our kissing scene in bed, she was very uneasy."

Sharon describes her "ordeal." "I had never done a scene like that before. To me it's such a big deal *kasi* I'm known for my wholesome movies. I was in a long pantsuit, I was getting wet. And then this gentleman walked in and then removed his shirt and then we will let the audience's imagination take them where they want to be led!

"*Sabi ko nga, bali-baliktarin man, halik at halik pa rin lang iyon. Wala namang ibang nangyayari!* But while you're shooting, it's so light. *Pag tingin mo lang sa* screen, *hay! Parang iba na, nakakatakot!*" squeals Sharon.

The actress says she even asked her co-star, "Is it *masagwa*? Sharon says Richard told her, "'No, it's OK,' *kasi, sabi niya, 'Nag-*mature *ka na!*"

Daring

"*Parang bago para kay* Sharon *iyon, medyo* daring," says Richard in defense of his co-star. "I always take a shower alone, *e!*" says Sharon.

Richard continues, "*Nagulat din ako. Meron talagang* scene *na naliligo ako,* but it was totally different from Sharon's shower scene!"

Richard narrates that *direk* Joel told him that he would film Sharon taking a shower. Then the director told him, "*O sige, pag* shower *ni* Sharon, *pumasok ka.*" "*Parang di ko ata nabasa sa* script *iyan a!*" reacts Richard. "*Pasok naman ako!*"

Lamangan went further with his instructions: "*Pag nabasa na kayo*, then you kiss." Richard and Sharon were surprised by the new addition to the script. "*Bago iyon a!*" said Richard.

But both Richard and Sharon have nothing but praises for their director. Sharon observes, "Even our scenes *doon sa kama, wala naman kaming ginawa na karumal-dumal.* It's only the tenderness of the love our characters have for each other that is shown on screen."

Richard shares that this movie shows them both in more mature roles, and that there are more love scenes in this movie than the ones they made in the past. And just how many kissing scenes do he and Sharon have? "*Mga lima.*"

And what about Miriam Quiambao, who plays his fiancée in the movie? "*Wala nga e!*" he says regretfully, "*Hindi kasi* necessary *na may* kissing scene *kami ni* Miriam!"

As for Sharon, she admits that she felt nervous about her kissing scenes with Richard in this movie. "When I do a kissing scene with him, *parang* everybody's watching to see how we used to kiss! They're all going, 'Uuuy!' or something. *Parang may kilig. Siyempre* you get affected."

Fortunate

Sharon says she is fortunate because she has never been really uncomfortable with any of her leading men. She mentions Robin Padilla and Fernando Poe Jr. among the actors with whom she is most comfortable. Sharon says that she and Aga Muhlach (they have a new movie coming up) are already getting used to each other. She says of Aga, "He's *magaan,* mabait!"

Sharon says she will not accept a job if it means working with an actor who has "*masamang ugali.*" "*Wala akong paki kung ikaw ang pinakasikat. Kung mahangin ka, ibabalik ko na lang yung suweldo.* I don't need it," declares the megastar.

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- A total of two (2) winners and their dealers will win in each minor raffle draws.
- A total of one hundred twenty seven (127) winners and their dealers will win in the grand draw.
- All employees of RMJR Grains Center, its advertising agency, its merchants dealers and the security and manpower agencies, including relatives up to second degree of sanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo.

Minor Raffle Draw/s
- The minor raffle draws will be held under the supervision of a DTI representative at RMJR Grains Promo Office, 2/F Don William Bldg. Javier cor Santillan Sts. Makati City on the following dates:

DRAW DATE	TIME
May 30, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM
July 25, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM
September 26, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM
November 28, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM

- Winners can only win once per draw. If a name is drawn more than once he/she gets the prize of higher value. However, a person can win more than once during the whole duration of the promo.
- Non-winning entries per draw are not qualified to join the succeeding draws but will be qualified to join the grand raffle draw.

Grand Draw
- The grand draw will be held under the supervision of a DTI representative on December 20, 2003 at RMJR Grains Promo Office, 2/F Don William Bldg. Javier cor Santillan Sts., Makati City.
- The deadline for submission of entries for the grand draw will be at 7:00PM of December 12, 2003.
- Winners can win only once on the grand draw. Names drawn more than once will automatically win the prize with the higher value.

Prizes
- For the minor raffle draws, the following vacation packages will be given away:

Minor Raffle Draw - May 30, 2003
One (1) Cebu & One (1) Puerto Galera — P5,000 for dealers
Minor Raffle Draw – July 25, 2003
One (1) Bohol & One (1) Banaue — P5,000 for dealers
Minor Raffle Draw – September 26, 2003
One (1) Boracay & One (1) Ilocos Norte — P5,000 for dealers
Minor Raffle Draw – November 28, 2003
One (1) Palawan & One (1) Davao — P5,000 for dealers

- For the grand draw, the following vacation packages will be given away:

Major Prizes
Grand Prize Winner — Dealer
Trip to Tokyo Disneyland w/ P500,000 Pocket Money OR P500,000 in Cash — P100,000 cash
1st Prize Winner — Dealer
Trip to Thailand w/ P50,000 Pocket Money OR P50,000 in Cash — P25,000 cash

Minor Prizes

	Winner/Dealer	
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- All prizes are tax free.
- All trips are valid for use up to six (6) months from date of issue.
- Winners will shoulder and facilitate all documents necessary for international travel.
- All winners will shoulder travel tax and insurance as well as transportation/ travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
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- All minor raffle prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
- All raffle prizes are non-replaceable with other items.

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- All raffle draw winners may claim their prizes at RMJR Grains Promo Office BC Concepts, Inc., 2/F Don William Bldg., Javier cor Santillan Sts. Makati City
- Winners should bring two (2) valid ID's (passport, driver's license, SSS) letter of notice and raffle stub.
- Prizes that are unclaimed after 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of RMJR Grains Center with prior approval of DTI-NCR.
- The equivalent prize for the dealer of an entry drawn without its name and address will be likewise forfeited in favor of RMJR Grains Center.

See posters for complete details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1476, Series of 2003

Summer cleansing

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Half of summer has swiftly flown by. We've been so busy with our dizzying schedule of activities that we haven't allocated time for one really important summer ritual.

I refer to summer cleansing—all kinds of washing, cleaning, laundering, purging and purifying that are best done in summer.

Letting go

Summer cleansing starts with putting order back to our closets, Clara. It means restoring sanity to the madness that our lockers and cabinets have become. In the process, we go through some kind of letting go as we carefully separate the things we still want to keep from those that need to be given away.

But, dearest child, this process should happen not only with respect to our closets—but more significantly, also to our minds and hearts. We should seize the opportunity to do some serious internal cleansing for us to be better able to move on with our lives.

Excesses

If we don't do this, it will be difficult for us to proceed because we shall forever be hampered by the excesses that have accumulated through the years—things we need to get rid of but haven't really found the compulsion to do so.

How do we cleanse our minds? First, we need to take stock of ourselves and assess how we have fared so far, using as barometer our preset goals and the destiny we have mapped out for ourselves.

For instance, what choices and decisions have we made that have proven to be ill-advised? How do we rectify them? How far have we strayed from the right path, and how do we get back to it again?

There's really nothing wrong with being wrong, Clara—especially when one has youth on his side. God allows it precisely for us to learn and be empowered. But it is up to us to choose to do so. Some people choose to be cowed, and they cower in fear after a really bad experience.

Forgiveness

In specific terms, Clara, cleansing our minds addresses the wrongs we've done and actively responds to them. Like, we ask forgiveness from people we have caused injury to, we repair the damage we have dealt to our relationships, we restore the peace and balance in our lives.

Which brings us to the cleansing of our hearts: This includes deciding to let go of the pains and hurts from wounds that time should have long healed but are still festering in us because we have allowed them to enslave us and even define our relationship with others.

There are pains and hurts from wounds that are not of our own making, but we suffer from them just the same because the circumstances that brought them about inevitably affect us.

I refer here, Clara, to the pains resulting from the bad choices and decisions that our parents, for instance, made in the past. Because they haven't come to terms with them and there has been no closure, the agony and anguish continue to haunt them, and the pain can sometimes be as fresh as when they first felt it.

My dearest one, healing is an individual act and decision. No one can do the healing for us. We cannot even entrust it to others, hoping that when they heal, we will, too.

Pain

It takes two to quarrel—but it may take only one to bear the pain for ages. Because forgiveness is a unilateral decision. It can be given even to one who doesn't ask for it—and this benefits the one who gives it.

We cannot wait for healing to happen—for it may never come if the condition of our heart is not yet ready for it. The beauty of the process is, healing happens naturally after we have made right the condition of our heart.

This is why, Clara, I was very happy last Easter Sunday when you organized an Easter party for your nieces and nephews whose parents have decided that they can't possibly be seen together in one party.

You're such a great events organizer, Clara. I take my hat off to you. I eavesdropped on your phone conversations with people whose consent to the party you were arranging was crucial to its success—and I quietly prayed that God would guide you in choosing the things to say—which He must have because the party was a huge triumph for bruised spirits claiming the healing they most certainly deserved!

Squeals of laughter

My heart danced that day, Clara, as I watched you kids, merrily and without any affectation, play charades and going on an egg hunt. I silently shed joyful tears at the sight of my grandchildren (who, otherwise, couldn't even dream of holding each other's hands) gleefully sharing a million smiles and laughs. My dearest Clara, if heaven had a sound, it was those squeals of laughter that trilled from the throats of young babes who recognize no gaps, no barriers, especially between people knotted by blood.

My prayer now, my child, is simple: May the seeds sown by what you did grow and bear fruit in the hearts not just of your nieces and nephews but also of their parents. Let the healing begin. God knows, we've had enough of hurting in this family.

Maricel on "Inday, Heart to Heart'

TOMORROW, on "Inday, Heart to Heart," Maricel Soriano shares some laughs with me as we talk about not just her family and career but, more intriguingly, also about the colorful men in her checkered love life.

Sample question: Why are she and Edu Manzano not working on the annulment of their marriage?

Controversial questions with equally controversial answers—only on "Inday, Heart to Heart," 10:30-11:30 a.m., every Sunday, GMA-7—brought to you by San Miguel Corp. (Coca Cola, Royal Tru Orange, Sprite, Lift and Viva Mineral Water), Samsung, Tender Bob's Steaks, Potion Planet, Home & Lifestyle, American Blues, Yamaha, Celine and The Philippine Daily Inquirer.

(For your comments and insights, please email at: badids2000@yahoo.com)

Lisa Marie . . .

From page E1

their parents' footsteps.

Success

Whether Lisa Marie Presley achieves the success of Jakob Dylan, Julian Lennon or Hank Williams Jr. remains to be seen.

Her recording debut poses the twin challenges of overcoming inevitable comparisons to her father and years of tabloid headlines borne of her high-profile former marriages to pop star Michael Jackson and actor Nicolas Cage.

Still, Presley, who bears a striking resemblance to her famous dad, has drawn generally warm reviews.

Billboard magazine said her first album "stands on its own and is far better than many might expect." Similarly, Los Angeles Times critic Robert Hilburn wrote, "Presley wants to pass the credibility test, and she does."

"I really went back through a lot of the dark corridors of my life in this record," Presley said in a recent interview with the Times. "I wanted people to know who I am based on my music, not on what they read in the tabloids." Indeed, the singer-songwriter has been surprisingly frank about her personal life in a promotional blitz that has seen her show up everywhere from the cover of Rolling Stone magazine to ABC television's "Primetime Thursday."

Favorable notices

Presley also benefited from considerable airplay and favorable notices for her album's bluesy first single, "Lights Out," which contains an eerie reference to her heritage.

"Someone turned the lights out there in Memphis/That's where my family's buried and gone/Last time I was there I noticed a space left/Next to them there in Memphis in the damn back lawn," she sang of the family grave site at Graceland. *Reuters*

Malaysian films meet new challenges head-on

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR recent working visit to Malaysia has given us a better appreciation of that country's film culture, tradition and current prospects.

Prospects

While the Malaysian movie industry's output went down to only 15 feature films in 2001, annual total gross income from movie productions has gone up from only 638,649 ringgit in 1999 to 13,162,837 ringgit in 2001.

This indicates that, on the average, Malaysian movies are making more at the box office than they used to. This rise in income is attributed to better conceptualization of movie projects that the viewing public will support, instead of the shot-in-the-dark approach of previous years.

Thus, instead of giving up in the face of adverse economic times, prevalent film piracy and stronger competition from Hollywood imports, Malaysian producers have been fighting back, meeting new challenges head-on, and winning.

Success stories

Some success stories are singled out to inspire other film workers. For one, director Datuk Yusof Haslan is now called the Six Million Ringgit Man because his film "Sembilu II" made that impressive amount at the box office, surpassed only by "Jurassic Park's" 7 million ringgit gross in Malaysia. And all of the ace filmmaker's movies earned more than one million ringgit each at the box office.

OSMAN. Has 14 feature films to his name.

Despite upbeat examples like this, Malaysian film people concede that the industry did much better in the '60s. There were only two major production companies then—Cathay Keris and Shaw Brothers—and they made movies on a monthly basis. In 20 years, they produced 300 movies.

Rising costs

Today, only a few small producers keep the industry going.

Industry problems include poor technicals, rising costs, and lack of financing. The National Film Development Corp. (Finas) does give out loans, but most producers have to shell out their own money to bankroll their movies.

Another Malaysian success story is Aziz Osman, who has megged two hit comedies featuring the comedy-singing group Senario. Osman won the Best Director trophy at TV3's Skrin Awards, and has 14 feature films to his name, the biggest of which is the award-winning war epic "Leftenen Adnan," an audience favorite at the Fukuoka Asian Film Festival we attended in 2001.

Malaysian film people are also proud of their own international movie star, Michelle Yeoh. After acting in Malaysian productions, Michelle co-starred with Jacky Chan in the big hit, "Supercop," which introduced her to the world film audience.

Production company

She then chalked up two more attention-calling appearances in "Tomorrow Never Dies" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." She has also put up her own production company, Mythical Films, in partnership with Media Asia. Her company's first production is an action thriller, "The Touch."

Finally, film workers are pleased to report that many foreign movies are now being shot in Malaysia, thanks to simplified procedures established by the Foreign Films Committee of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism

Major projects

From 1998 to 2000, some 40 international films were shot in Malaysia, including some major projects like Twentieth Century Fox's "Anna & the King" and "Entrapment."

A number of other countries are represented, like India ("Ravanna"), the United Kingdom ("The Monkey King"), Thailand ("Percintaan"), Singapore ("Watan"), and China ("Crazy Tourist").

While the Philippines produces many more movies than Malaysia, it's clear that in certain areas like encouraging foreign productions to shoot here, we have much to learn from our Southeast Asian neighbor.

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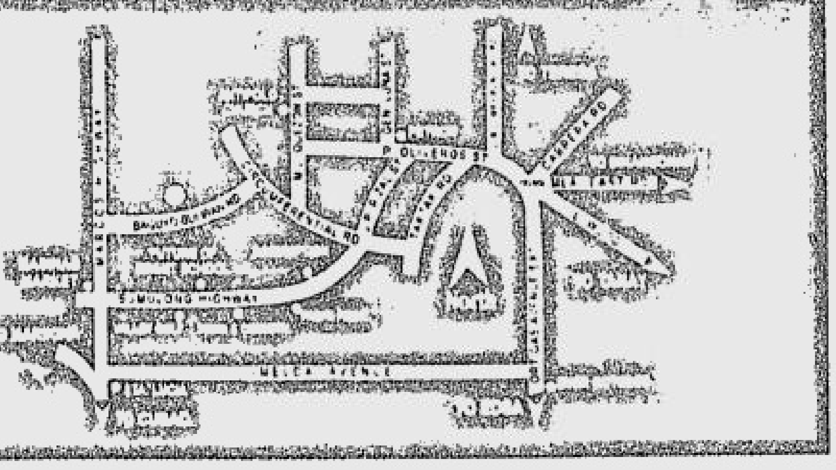

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SATURDAY Special

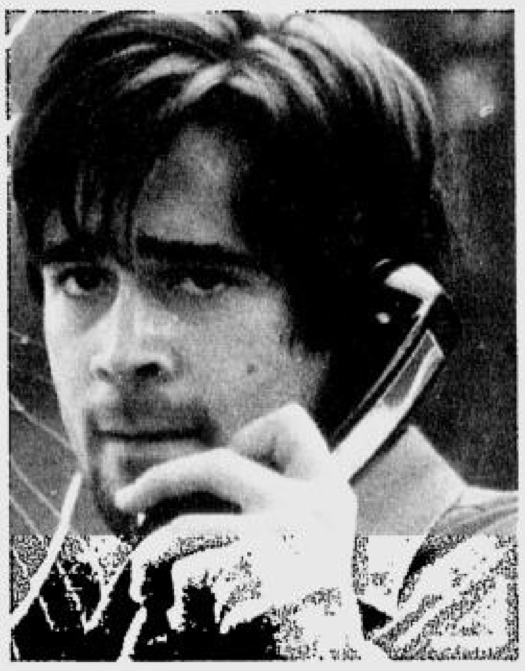
Colin Farrell is Hollywood's newest Golden Boy

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A this week:

From Natasha Morada of Bacolod: **"I couldn't get enough of Colin Farrell after watching him in 'Daredevil,' 'The Recruit' and 'Phone Booth." He is Hollywood's hunk-of-the-moment but almost nothing is written about Colin's personal life! Isn't it about time you fixed that? Thanks."**



FARRELL. Now making $8 million per film.

Few stories get written on the 5'9" tall, 26-year-old Colin (born Colin James Farrell on May 31, 1976 in Dublin, Ireland), other than about his movies and his recent divorce from wife Amelia Warner, because he grew up in the United Kingdom. His father is Irish football star, Eamon Farrell.

Role

He took up drama in Dublin's Gaiety Drama School but dropped out to pursue a career in TV-film acting. He successfully auditioned for a role in a UK TV series, "ballykissangel" and never looked back.

He appeared in movies ("Drinking Crude" and Tim Roth's "The War Zone") before Kevin Spacey saw his riveting performance in a West End stage production of "In a Little World of Our Own," and suggested him for a role in "Ordinary Decent Criminals," which we have seen in local video shops.

But he first turned Hollywood heads when he starred in Joel Schumacher's war drama, "Tigerland," which was released a few years ago locally without much fanfare. Still, the little-seen film made critics sit up.

In 2000, Colin surprised everyone when he was awarded Best Actor by the Boston Society of Film Critics for his performance in the film. Two years later, he also won a London Critics Circle award for "Tigerland."

He continued to turn heads in "American Outlaws" (where he played Jesse James); "Hart's War" (with Bruce Willis), and "Minority Report" (with Tom Cruise). He even won another award, the Golden Goblet Award for Best Actor, in last year's Shanghai Filmfest, for the sullen "Hart's War."

A-list

At 25, he joined Hollywood's A-List when he stole Ben Affleck's thunder in the blockbuster, "Daredevil," as the hero's lovable nemesis, Bullseye, and topped the box-office charts back-to-back with "The Recruit" and "Phone Booth," his reunion with Schumacher.

Even his paycheck has shot up dramatically, from $2.5 million (for "Hart's War" and "Minority Report") to $5 million ("The Recruit") to $8 million for his next big starrer, "S.W.A.T," with Samuel L. Jackson and Olivier Martinez ("Unfaithful").

He joins Schumacher again in the Irish true-to-life drama, "Veronica Guerin," with Cate Blanchett in the title role, about the assassinated Irish journalist who bravely wrote about the crime lords and drug dealers of Dublin.

Urban love story

Also in various stages of production are "Intermission," an urban love story; Oliver Stone's "Alexander, (with Colin as Alexander the Great), and a movie about legendary bat-eating "Black Sabbath" lead singer, Ozzy Osbourne (as Ozzy).

When asked what he felt when he appeared nude in "Tigerland," he casually said, "I couldn't care less about who sees my bits. My friends asked how I could do scenes like that and not get excited. But it wasn't like that at all!"

Colin is expecting his first child with girlfriend Kim Bordenave. Last week, it was reported that Colin is writing songs with Russell Crowe for the latter's band, 30 Odd Foot of Grunts, (and probably Farrell) to sing.

A frustrated singer, he admitted to having failed to make it to Ronan Keating's now-disbanded Irish boy band, Boyzone. He said he failed to make the grade because he was tone-deaf! You can't win them all, Colin!

IN "Shadow of the Vampire," Malkovich (left) plays horror film director F.W. Murnau.

John Malkovich turns in two idiosyncratic performances

By Nestor U. Torre

JOHN Malkovich has played more than his share of idiosyncratic characters, most of them to great acclaim. A veteran of more than 70 movies and 100 plays, he even played himself in the really unusual film, "Being John Malkovich."

Intrepid actor

Risk-taking and over-the-top characterizations are obviously nothing new for this intrepid actor, who refuses to distinguish between lead and supporting roles. As long as the part challenges him and requires him to do something new, he'll play it.

This year, Malkovich has two new roles that should end up among his best-remembered performances. In the current hit, "Johnny English," he plays the spy spoof's main villain, Pascal Sauvage, whose cheekily audacious plan is to be crowned King of Great Britain!

Malkovich plays the role with a thick French accent, a first for him in his long and colorful acting career in English-language films. But he doesn't overact. He keeps the character's evil craziness deftly in control, and this imbues his scenes with a relaxed mood, and makes them delightfully funny.

More delicate

Other comic villains would have gone to town satirizing the French with all sorts of thespic curlicues and furbelows, but Malkovich's style is more delicate-and much funnier.

Rowan Atkinson, the film's lead comic, is a Malkovich fan through and through: "John captures the character and the accent perfectly," he raves. "He is so languid! And of course, having lived in France, he has an inside track to the whole way French people think and speak, so he's the perfect actor for this plum role!"

Malkovich enthusiastically returns the compliment: "Rowan is really fun to watch when he's working. All accomplished comics always seem to be incredibly serious, thoughtful and perfectionist, as Rowan is. He's very bright, and he has a great comic face.

Acting choices

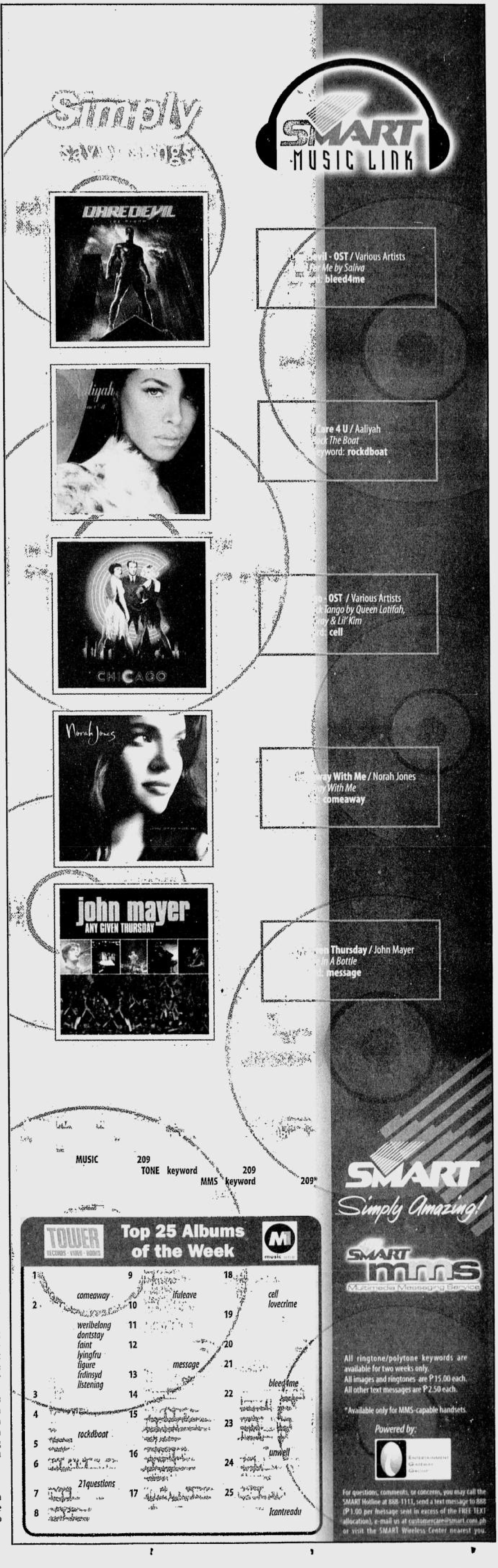
"He's quite exact and specific in his acting choices. And he's truthful and 'painful,' because I really believe part of what we laugh at in comedy is the recognition of pain. It's the recognition of our own ludicrousness, our own failings and inadequacies."

Malkovich's other standout performance this year is much more serious-even morbid: In "Shadow of the Vampire," he plays horror film director F.W. Murnau, who ensures realism in his film about the vampire Nosferatu by casting a real bloodsucker in the role (played by Willem Dafoe, another acclaimed character actor)!

Obsessive edge

Screenwriter Steven Katz says Malkovich was everyone's choice to play Murnau because "he looks surprisingly like the director. He also

JOHN F4



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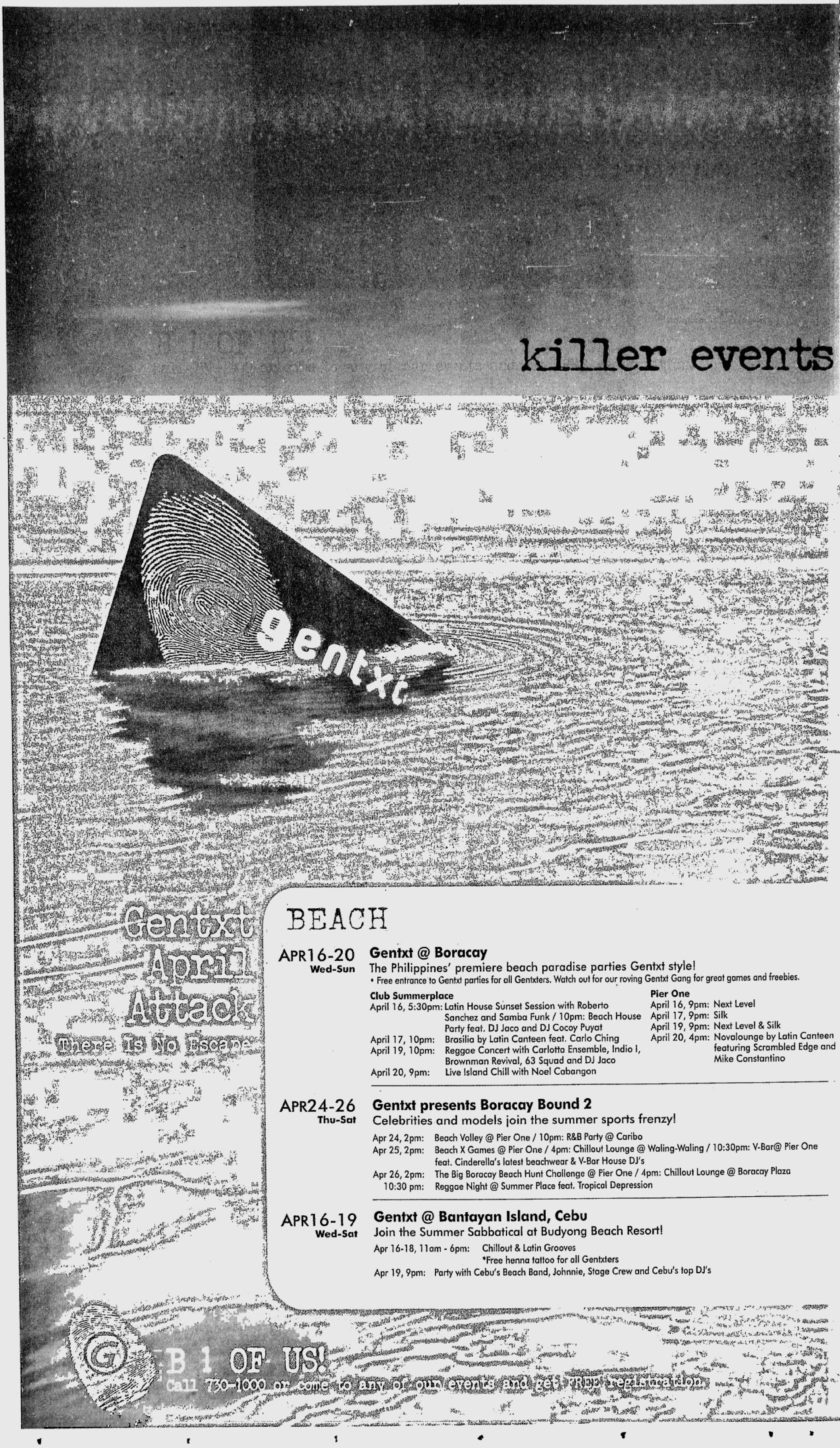

BEACH

APR16-20
Wed-Sun

Gentxt @ Boracay

The Philippines' premiere beach paradise parties Gentxt style!

- Free entrance to Gentxt parties for all Gentxters. Watch out for our roving Gentxt Gang for great games and freebies.

Club Summerplace

April 16, 5:30pm: Latin House Sunset Session with Roberto Sanchez and Samba Funk / 10pm: Beach House Party feat. DJ Jaco and DJ Cocoy Puyat
April 17, 10pm: Brasilia by Latin Canteen feat. Carlo Ching
April 19, 10pm: Reggae Concert with Carlotta Ensemble, Indio I, Brownman Revival, 63 Squad and DJ Jaco
April 20, 9pm: Live Island Chill with Noel Cabangon

Pier One

April 16, 9pm: Next Level
April 17, 9pm: Silk
April 19, 9pm: Next Level & Silk
April 20, 4pm: Novalounge by Latin Canteen featuring Scrambled Edge and Mike Constantino

---

APR24-26
Thu-Sat

Gentxt presents Boracay Bound 2

Celebrities and models join the summer sports frenzy!

Apr 24, 2pm: Beach Volley @ Pier One / 10pm: R&B Party @ Caribo
Apr 25, 2pm: Beach X Games @ Pier One / 4pm: Chillout Lounge @ Waling-Waling / 10:30pm: V-Bar@ Pier One feat. Cinderella's latest beachwear & V-Bar House DJ's
Apr 26, 2pm: The Big Boracay Beach Hunt Challenge @ Pier One / 4pm: Chillout Lounge @ Boracay Plaza
10:30 pm: Reggae Night @ Summer Place feat. Tropical Depression

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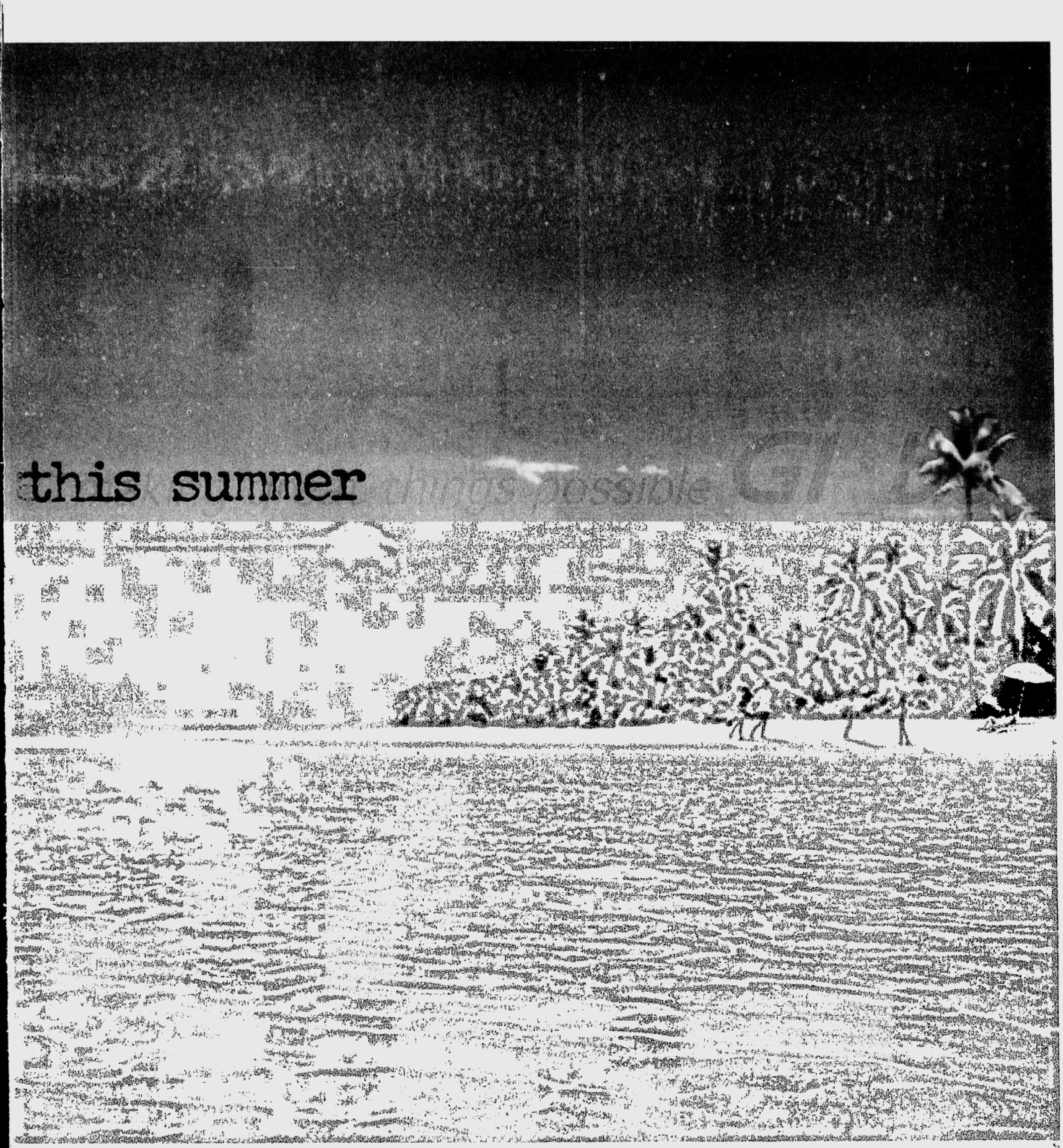
APR16-19
Wed-Sat

Gentxt @ Bantayan Island, Cebu

Join the Summer Sabbatical at Budyong Beach Resort!

Apr 16-18, 11am - 6pm: Chillout & Latin Grooves
*Free henna tattoo for all Gentxters
Apr 19, 9pm: Party with Cebu's Beach Band, Johnnie, Stage Crew and Cebu's top DJ's

Call 730-1000 or come to any of our events and get FREE registration.



SPORTS

APR5-27

adidas Streetball Challenge 2003 presented by Gentxt
Slam'n jam with some of the country's top amateur ballers.

- Apr 5: St. Louis Univ., Baguio
- Apr 5-6: Robinson's, Sta. Rosa
- Apr 12: Divine Word Coll., Legazpi
- Apr 25-27: Robinson's, San Fernando

APR5-27
Sat- Sun

Gentxt National Beach Football Cup
Feel the football fever as the country's top varsity college and amateur clubs take this one of a kind tournament on tour!

- Apr 5-6: Luzon Cup, Subic
- Apr 12-13: Visayas Cup, Boracay
- April 26-27: Mindanao Cup, GenSan
- May 3-4: National Championship, Boracay

APR6-13

Manila Youth Games @ Rizal Memorial Complex
Watch 10,000 of Manila's best young athletes compete in 12 different sports as they help build a strong, healthy and peaceful community this summer.

APR17-19
Thu-Sat

Gentxt @ Puerto Galera
It's sun and sports in the sand with LIGA SMB!

April 17, 2pm: Water Basketball, Three-point Shootout, Slam Dunk
8pm: Acoustic Night feat. K24-7
April 18, 3pm: Water Basketball, Basketball Relay, Three-point Shootout
8pm: Chillout Session feat. Manila's coolest DJ's under Mindoro's star-filled sky
April 19, 4pm: Slam Dunk & Water Basketball Championships
8pm: Party with True Faith, The Dawn and K24-7

ENTERTAINMENT

APR11
Friday
6 PM

The JAG Show @ Glorietta Activity Center
Summer sizzles in style in a night of fun and fashion.

APR11
Friday
10 PM

Loud in Style @ Hard Rock Cafe, Makati
Move to the sounds of DJ Lisa Loud of the UK and the Space Dolls of Australia.
*Free entrance for the first 200 Gentxters

APR4,11 & 25
Friday
9 PM

Gentxt Nights @ DISH, Rockwell Power Plant
Featuring Barbie's Cradle (Apr 4) and Paolo Santos (Apr 11 & 25) and Pido with Take One. Unwind with songs to soothe your soul this summer.

- Flash your Gentxt card and get free entrance and a free drink
- VIP area for the first 100 Gentxters

APR28
Monday
8 PM

XMEN 2 Premiere @ Onstage, Greenbelt 1
Gentxt brings you mutant madness at its best in this exclusive advanced screening!

- First 400 Gentxters to register at the venue at 6pm get one free ticket each

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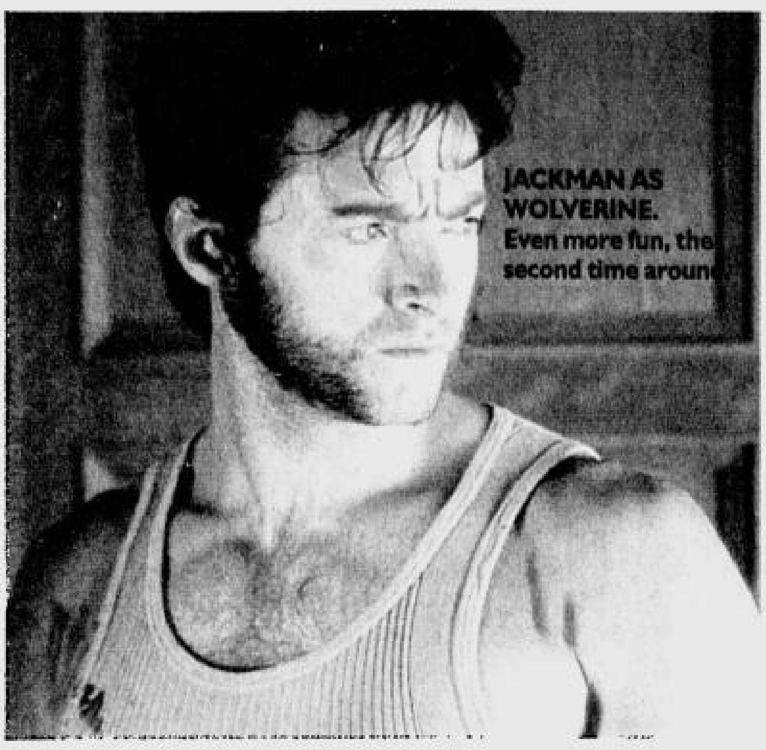

JACKMAN AS WOLVERINE. Even more fun, the second time around

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we went on our theater tour of the United States of America some years ago under the US-AID International Visitors program, one of the unique groups we were seconded to was a troupe in Chicago that specialized in performing in hospitals.

The musical-comedy group constantly put up highly original and entertaining shows in hospital canteens and wards to boost the spirits of many patients. They also did shows for the benefit of stressed doctors and nurses, who welcomed the break with great enthusiasm.

After we got back to Manila, we decided to also put up entertaining and potentially stress-relieving and "healing" shows in hospitals here. As we talked up the idea with some possible performers and supporters, however, it began to take on a different life of its own.

We saw that many more people here needed a boost than just patients and hospital personnel. So, after a period of adjustment, addition and refinement, what we now have is the new performing troupe that calls itself Entertainers for H.O.P.E.

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In other words, all a hospital, orphanage. office, prison or school has to do to get a H.O.P.E. show staged on its premises is to ask for it—by calling Happy at 713-9323 or 0919-2065424.

GARY V during the initial staging of TWM's "Beyond Words: The Music of Gary Valenciano" at the Podium.

And, if you wish to support this worthy (and fun!) endeavor in any way, please call the same numbers and count yourselves in. For our part, we Entertainers for H.O.P.E. pledge to do everything this project needs to succeed, because many people could benefit from it, especially at this time.

In need of fun *and* inspiration? Call the HOPE entertainers!

Fireworks competition

The Santa Rosa night sky lights up once more at 7 tonight as eight pyrotechnics firms compete in the 8th Annual Fireworks Competition at Enchanted Kingdom. The fireworks display, the park's signature event, kicks off EK's magical eighth birthday celebration.

This year's contest is made exciting and visually thrilling as last year's winner Platinum Fireworks (formerly Victory Fireworks) defends its title against Flash Fireworks, JB Fireworks, Justina Fireworks, Kulot Fireworks, M. Garcia Fireworks, 6J Fireworks and Rosca Fireworks. Top winner will receive P100,000 cash and a trophy.

Invited celebrity and VIP jurors are Maricel Soriano, Chito Roño, Lourdes "Inday Badiday" Carvajal, Bernie Buenaseda, Ricky Lo, Josefina Arcillas, Lani Mercado, Jose Isidro Camacho, Boots Anson Roa, Sonia Roco and Rolando Reyes.

Featured entertainers are Prime Council with Aliyah Parcs, Jed Madella and Gail Blanco in a concert at the Bandstand from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and Aiko Melendez as the day's celebrity storyteller. Call 830-2111 to 16.

The Venue

Despite continuing threats, life goes on for residents of Davao City, and The Venue continues to showcase the best entertainment to relive stress and drive the blues away. Tonight, The Venue presents the Philipogy Show.

Gary V's music

At 6:30 tonight, Gary Valenciano's music will be performed at The Podium, to promote his new album, "Beyond Words: The Music of Gary V." The instrumental album showcases the beautiful and dynamic songs Gary has composed through the years.

Gary's music will be performed by Paramount Syndicate. Tony Maigue on flute, and Tots Tolentino on saxophone. Admission is free! Call 687-3077, 726-1953 or 373-9091.

Hugh Jackman returns as Wolverine

Australian hunk Hugh Jackman reprises his role as Wolverine, a solitary fighting machine who possesses amazing healing powers, retractable claws and an animal-like fury, in Twentieth Century Fox's "X2," the much awaited sequel to the 2000 hit, "X-Men."

This time, the character investigates his mysterious past and inner conflicts. For Jackman, taking on Wolverine was even more fun the second time around.

"I had a blast," says the actor. "Wolverine is getting closer and closer to finding out about his past. The clues are starting to come together, and more and more information is coming his way. He's having more nightmares and more flashbacks, so the mental torment is getting stronger, too."

John . . .

• From page F1

gives an incredibly obsessive edge to his character, which is exactly right for this film.

In the entertainingly weird and creepy film, Malkovich's character is so determined to get the real-life vampire to play Nosferatu that he promises the creature of the night the neck of the film's leading lady, as compensation and motivation!

MALKOVICH as Pascal Sauvage in "Johnny English."

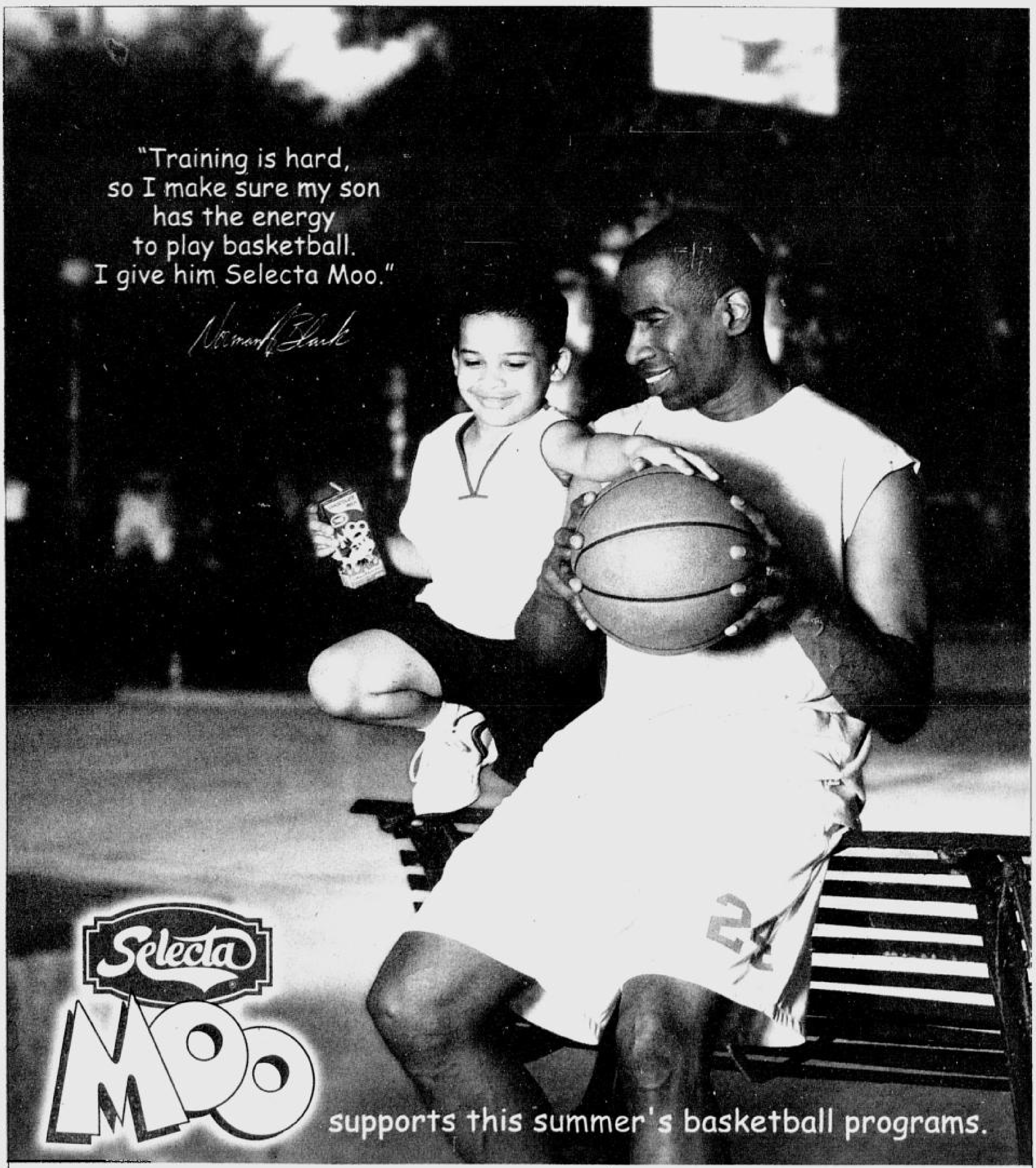
Malkovich had a great time playing Murnau because he's long been a fan of the late director's movies. Murnau believed that the cinema should have its own distinct language, and should be free from tricks and artificial devices.

Emotional intensity

He had a knack for imbuing the simplest stories with emotional intensity. His extraordinary storytelling skills and his innovations made him an excellent director.

Malkovich's other memorable portrayals have been in films like "Dangerous Liaisons," "The Killing Fields," "Of Mice and Men," "Places in the Heart" and "In the Line of Fire."

Now he can add two more: "Johnny English" and "Shadow of the Vampire."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Kids ages 7-13 years old
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Camp Director: Raymond Celis

BULPRISA Bulacan Private School Association Basketball Camp

Selecta Moo BULPRISA Basketball Training Camp

Camp Director: Arlene Rodriguez
Duration: March 22 to April 23
48 member schools

MAKATI INTERVILLAGE Basketball Tournaments

Selecta Moo in cooperation with SK Bgy. Bel-Air presents the Makati Intervillage Basketball Tournaments

Participating villages:
Bel-Air • Magallanes • Palm Village • Urdaneta • San Lorenzo • Dasmariñas • San Miguel • Forbes Park

Duration: April 26 to May 17
2 Categories: Mini-Midget (for kids 11 years and below)
Bullilit (for kids 14 years and below)

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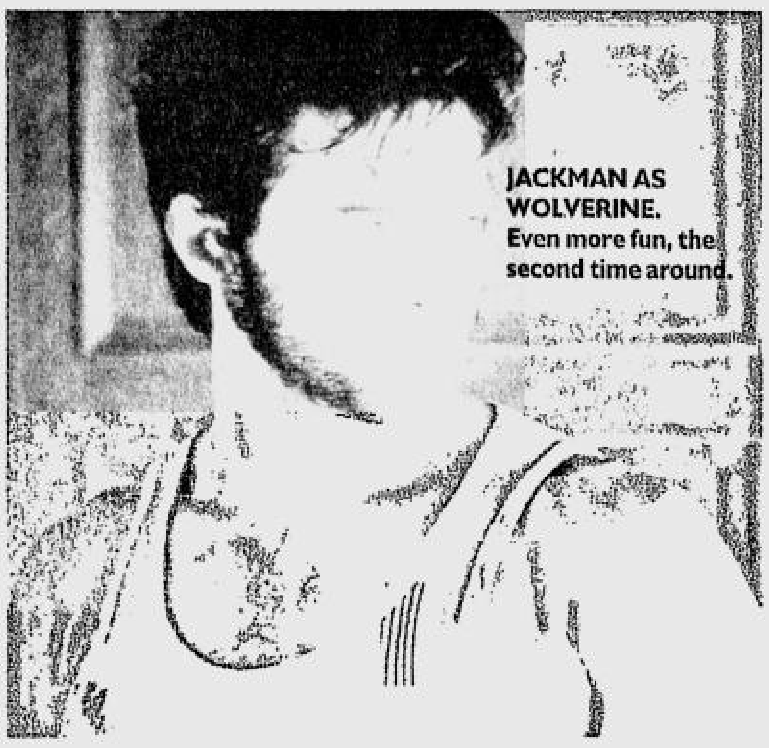

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Our small troupe is made up of gifted musical-theater talents and some established performers, all of whom are ready, willing and *happy* to perform as volunteers. It's our way of giving things back, of paying it forward.

In other words, all a hospital, orphanage, office, prison or school has to do to get a H.O.P.E. show staged on its premises is to ask for it—by calling Happy at 713-9323 or 0919-2065424.

GARY V during the initial staging of TWM's "Beyond Words: The Music of Gary Valenciano" at the Podium.

And, if you wish to support this worthy (and fun!) endeavor in any way, please call the same numbers and count yourselves in. For our part, we Entertainers for H.O.P.E. pledge to do everything this project needs to succeed, because many people could benefit from it, especially at this time.

In need of fun *and* inspiration? Call the HOPE entertainers!

Fireworks competition

The Santa Rosa night sky lights up once more at 7 tonight as eight pyrotechnics firms compete in the 8th Annual Fireworks Competition at Enchanted Kingdom. The fireworks display, the park's signature event, kicks off EK's magical eighth birthday celebration.

This year's contest is made exciting and visually thrilling as last year's winner Platinum Fireworks (formerly Victory Fireworks) defends its title against Flash Fireworks, JB Fireworks, Justina Fireworks, Kulot Fireworks, M. Garcia Fireworks, 6J Fireworks and Rosca Fireworks. Top winner will receive P100,000 cash and a trophy.

Invited celebrity and VIP jurors are Maricel Soriano, Chito Roño, Lourdes "Inday Badiday" Carvajal, Bernie Buenaseda, Ricky Lo, Josefina Arcillas, Lani Mercado, Jose Isidro Camacho, Boots Anson Roa, Sonia Roco and Rolando Reyes.

Featured entertainers are Prime Council with Aliyah Parcs, Jed Madella and Gail Blanco in a concert at the Bandstand from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and Aiko Melendez as the day's celebrity storyteller. Call 830-2111 to 16.

The Venue

Despite continuing threats, life goes on for residents of Davao City, and The Venue continues to showcase the best entertainment to relieve stress and drive the blues away. Tonight, The Venue presents the Philipogy Show.

Gary V's music

At 6:30 tonight, Gary Valenciano's music will be performed at The Podium, to promote his new album, "Beyond Words: The Music of Gary V." The instrumental album showcases the beautiful and dynamic songs Gary has composed through the years.

Gary's music will be performed by Paramount Syndicate. Tony Maigue on flute, and Tots Tolentino on saxophone. Admission is free! Call 687-3077, 726-1953 or 373-9091.

Hugh Jackman returns as Wolverine

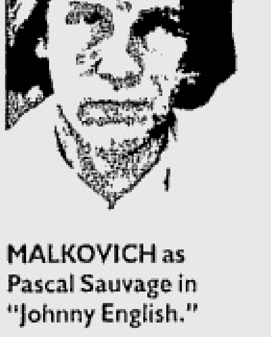
Australian hunk Hugh Jackman reprises his role as Wolverine, a solitary fighting machine who possesses amazing healing powers, retractable claws and an animal-like fury, in Twentieth Century Fox's "X2," the much awaited sequel to the 2000 hit, "X-Men."

This time, the character investigates his mysterious past and inner conflicts. For Jackman, taking on Wolverine was even more fun the second time around.

"I had a blast," says the actor. "Wolverine is getting closer and closer to finding out about his past. The clues are starting to come together, and more and more information is coming his way. He's having more nightmares and more flashbacks, so the mental torment is getting stronger, too."

John . . .

• From page F1



MALKOVICH as Pascal Sauvage in "Johnny English."

gives an incredibly obsessive edge to his character, which is exactly right for this film.

In the entertainingly weird and creepy film, Malkovich's character is so determined to get the real-life vampire to play Nosferatu that he promises the creature of the night the neck of the film's leading lady, as compensation and motivation!

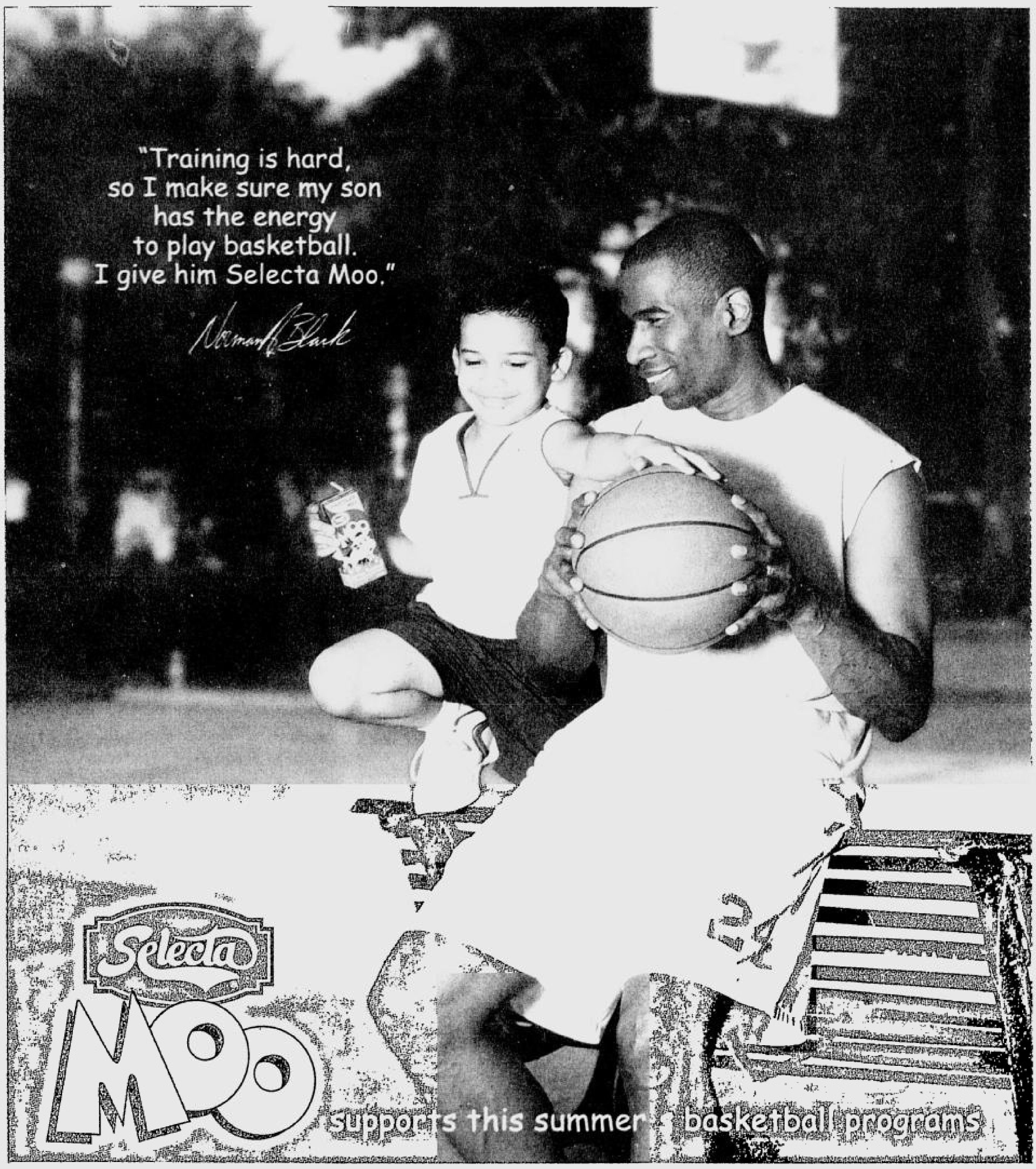
Malkovich had a great time playing Murnau because he's long been a fan of the late director's movies. Murnau believed that the cinema should have its own distinct language, and should be free from tricks and artificial devices

Emotional intensity

He had a knack for imbuing the simplest stories with emotional intensity. His extraordinary storytelling skills and his innovations made him an excellent director

Malkovich's other memorable portrayals have been in films like "Dangerous Liaisons," "The Killing Fields," "Of Mice and Men," "Places in the Heart" and "In the Line of Fire."

Now he can add two more: "Johnny En



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FREE shirt
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By Bobby Parks and Charlie Favis

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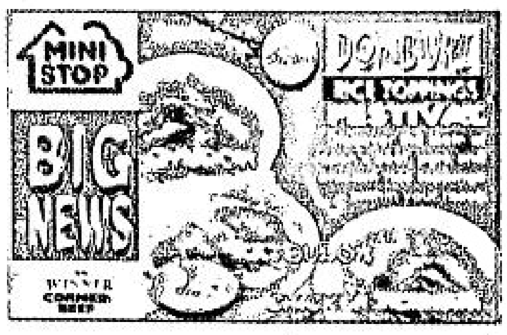
MINI STOP
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Cameron cruises back to Titanic with 3-D documentary

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—All right, so James Cameron delivered the textbook case for creating a sequel that can stand on its own without merely copycatting the original ("Aliens").

Sequel

He made science fiction both smart and rousing in the relatively low-budget "The Terminator," then pioneered morphing visual effects in its sequel, "Terminator 2: Judgment Day."

He launched modern cinema's biggest blockbuster with "Titanic," dominating the Academy Awards and luring teenage girls back to see it again and again to pine over Leonardo DiCaprio.

But what's he done for us lately?

Five years after his Oscar triumph, Cameron goes back to Titanic with "Ghosts of the Abyss," an hour-long documentary chronicling his return trip to the wrecked vessel in summer 2001. The movie will play in huge-screen Imax cinemas and specially equipped regular theaters.

The first theatrical project Cameron has directed since "Titanic," "Ghosts of the Abyss" was made using remarkable advances in underwater cinematography and three-dimensional imaging.

Floating objects

"My fantasy for a long time had been to shoot 3-D underwater," Cameron said in an interview. "Because underwater and 3-D go together so well. You have these floating subjects and dark scenes that have indeterminate edges to the frame, and something kind of glowing in the lights in the middle of the frame just seems to come right out at you. It really gives you a greater sense of being physically present."

Cameron, 48, is writing the screenplay for his first fictional feature since "Titanic," which begins shooting late this year or early next with the same 3-D camera system used on "Ghosts of the Abyss."

Cameron hopes both films will revive interest in 3-D moviemaking, which began in the early 1950s as a short-lived gimmick and has since been applied mainly to Imax documentaries or the occasional horror flick.

Like other 3-D imaging, the system uses two side-by-side cameras. But Cameron's setup miniaturizes the cameras so the lenses can be placed closer together at roughly the distance between a pair of human eyes.

The resulting images reduce eyestrain that turned many viewers off from earlier 3-D movies, and the depth of the pictures is often dazzling. Waves coming at the camera look as if they will spill over the theater seats into viewers' laps. Actors Cameron used to recreate scenes aboard Titanic appear to hover only a foot or two away, while the wreck of the ship seems close enough to touch.

3-D glasses

Viewers still must wear 3-D glasses, which trick the brain into perceiving the dual, slightly offset images as a single picture.

The other big innovation on "Ghosts of the Abyss" were two small robot cameras able to withstand water pressure 2½ miles deep, developed by Mike Cameron, the director's brother. Nicknamed "Jake" and "Elwood," the remote-control cameras were able to film staterooms, dining halls and other Titanic interiors while manned minisubs photographed the wreck's exterior.

After "Titanic" and its $1.8 billion worldwide haul, Cameron's hiatus from filmmaking left people guessing about what he was up to.

To the public, it looked as though Cameron was on an extended vacation. But Cameron said he's worked nonstop the last five years, overseeing his new camera technology, consulting with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration about Mars exploration and filming in space, and dabbling in television, including his short-lived series "Dark Angel" and a documentary last year on the sunken German warship Bismarck.

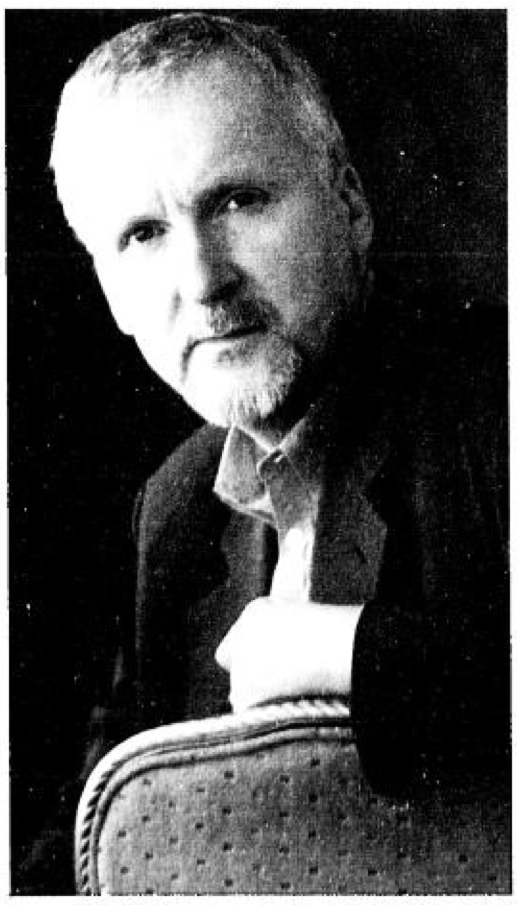
"If people know someone primarily from their theatrical films, then they just kind of assume I'm kicking back on a beach someplace screwing up the courage to go make another film," Cameron said. "When, in fact, I've been pretty darn busy the last few years.

Big score

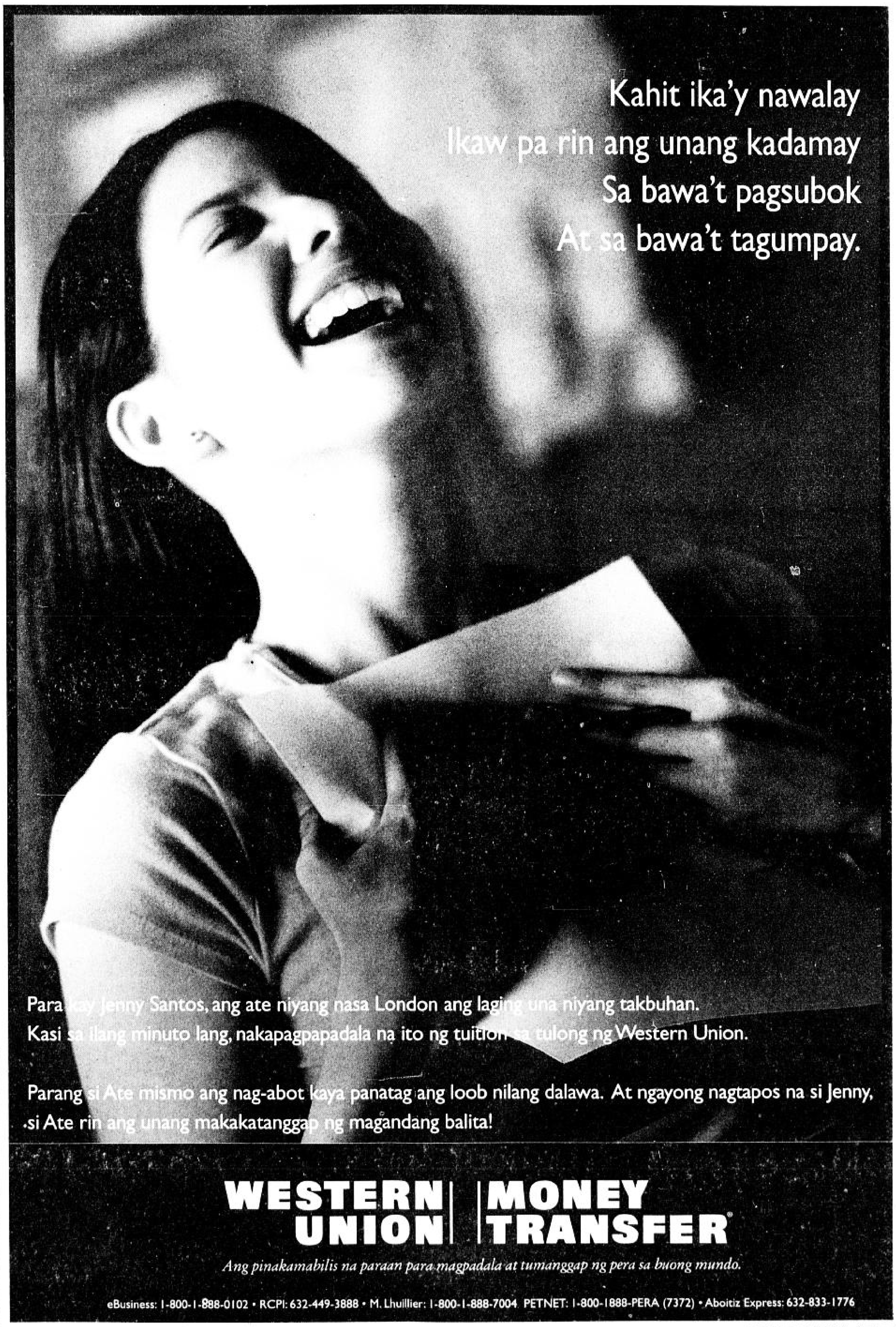
"I always said to myself that I was going to work in the Hollywood fantasy mill for a

CAMERON/ G2

CAMERON (left), and Bill Paxton (right), go under the sea for a never-before-seen 3-D look at one of the most captivating wrecks in history: the Titanic, in "Ghosts of the Abyss." AP



CAMERON. Has worked nonstop for the last five years. AP



Para kay Jenny Santos, ang ate niyang nasa London ang laging una niyang takbuhan. Kasi sa ilang minuto lang, nakapagpapadala na ito ng tuition sa tulong ng Western Union.

Parang si Ate mismo ang nag-abot kaya panatag ang loob nilang dalawa. At ngayong nagtapos na si Jenny, si Ate rin ang unang makakatanggap ng magandang balita!

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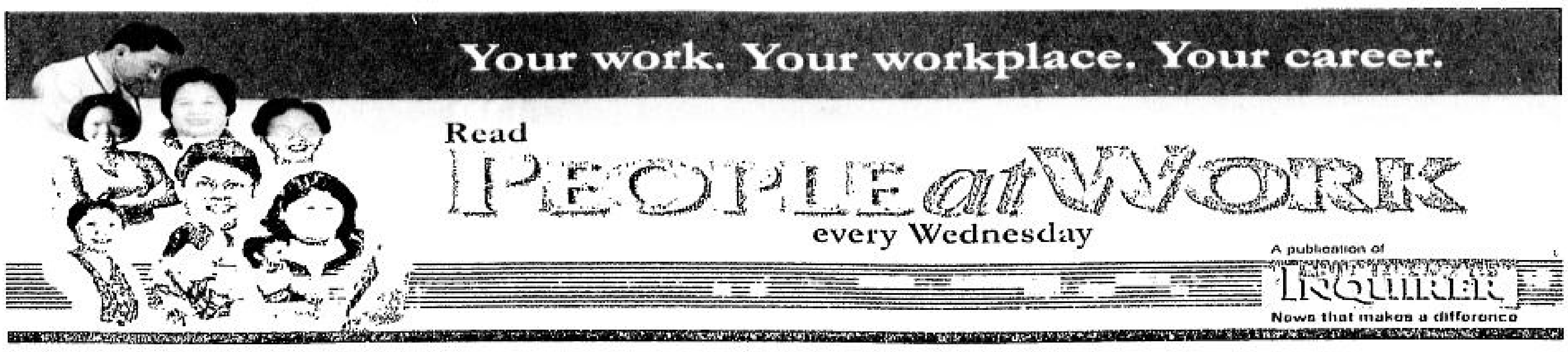
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Why adventurers climb Mt. Everest

By Nestor U. Torre

AT 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, the National Geographic Channel will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay's ascent to the summit of Mt. Everest with the telecast of a two-hour film, "Surviving Everest."

High and low points

The documentary details the high and low points of the historic expedition, told from the point of view of their sons Peter Hillary and Jamling Norgay, who retrace their fathers' footsteps in an NGC-funded climb.

To prep up for viewing the special documentary, we read "Everest: Mountain Without Mercy" by Broughton Coburns, a book with very dramatic photographs published by the National Geographic Society.

The book details the harrowing progress to the top of the world's highest mountain, and stuns the reader with its unflinching look at the dark side of mountainclimbing.

JAMLING Norgay at the summit.

Challenges

This debunks the fantasy that Everest is a "benevolent" mountain. The truth is that it presents climbers with many challenges and dangers—a ferocious wind that renders the most high-tech gear absolutely useless, oxygen in drastically short supply, High Altitude Cerebral Edema, hallucinations, killer icefalls, deep crevasses, etc!

Despite these very real dangers, it was decided to push through with the expedition, which was tasked to film the ascent to Everest's summit with a modified Imax camera, the first time that this would be attempted.

As the filmmaking expedition progressed, the potential dangers became tragically real. The team of filmmakers survived, but eight other climbers died in s storm, and another fell to his death.

Rite of passage

This tragic denouement makes reading the book a chillingly cautionary experience. No longer will we regard mountainclimbing merely as an exciting, glamorous rite of passage.

So, why do so many people dream of climbing Everest? The standard, cool answer is, "Because it's there," but there must be more to it than just that offhand kind of casual machismo.

There is. Author Coburn interviewed a number of climbers on Everest, and they talked about what motivated them and other risk-takers to put their lives on the line, just so they could plant a tiny flag at the very top of the world.

A sherpa said he climbed to make a good living, and he would never do it for sport, it was just too physically gruelling and dangerous. What about "the others"?

Religion

The sherpa smilingly conjectured, "Maybe they have lots of time and money, and don't know what to do with it." More seriously, he observed that, though religion is important to sherpas, it may be the foreigners who bring a more philosophical approach to the mountain.

One such "foreigner" confirmed this view. He saw in Everest the values of dreaming, striving, going beyond oneself, and caring for the earth and his relationship to it.

Filmmaker David Breashears agreed: "Climbing Everest is about the deprivations, the challenge, the sheer physical beauty, the movement and the rhythm.

Life-threatening

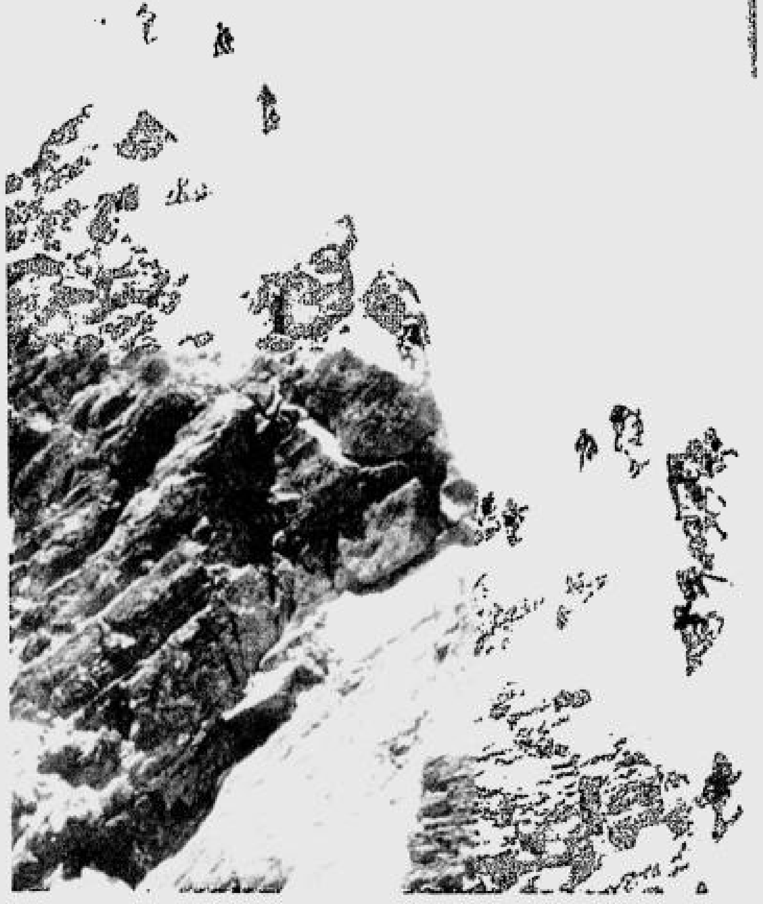
"And it's partly about risk. You learn about yourself, about what happens when you abandon comfort and warmth and your daily routine, the tyranny of the urgent. You learn how you perform and handle a situation that may be life-threatening.

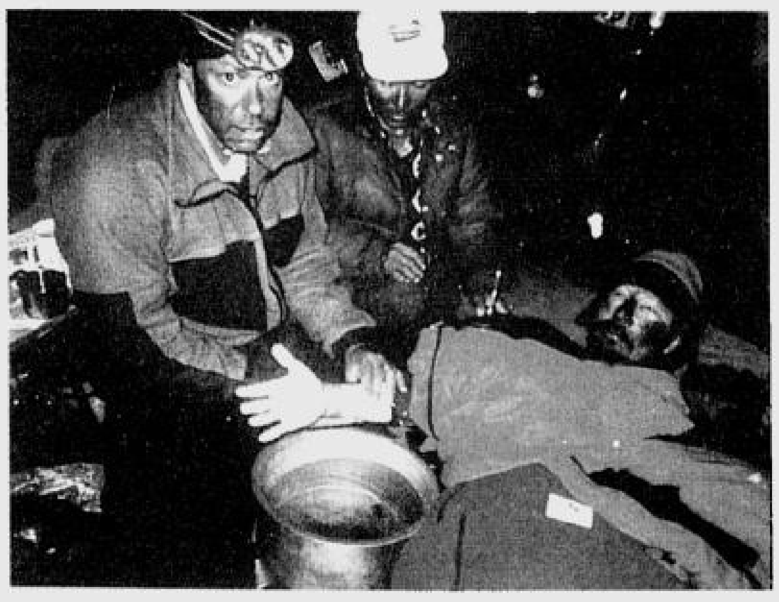
"There's a reward for your effort, and a lot of fatigue, too—but I even like the fatigue. I like to wake up in the morning feeling stronger than I was the day before.

Outlet

"Climbing a high mountain may be modern man's outlet for the classic hero's struggle: approaching, confronting and then overcoming the weaknesses and demons that haunt us and obstruct us."

Still other climbers seem to be searching for a sense of power and achievement, for fame and attention. As for the sherpas, they understand what the foreign climbers are seeking—they're just not sure that climbing mountains is the best way to find it!


CLIMBERS risk their lives to conquer the world's highest mountain.


AFTER an accident near the summit, rescuers work hard to save a survivor's frozen fingers.

Joyce Jimenez has a head for business

By Agnes P. de Guzman
and Ronald G. Mangubat

LOCAL tinseltown's "Pantasya ng Bayan" is slowly earning the reputation of being an astute businesswoman. Sure, Joyce Jimenez gets stares from the male population and even women who admire her voluptuous body— but she is also respected because of the persona she projects off-screen.

Different person

Once the cameras stop grinding, Joyce Jimenez of "Scorpio Nights 2" fame becomes a totally different person. She is highly articulate, warm and affectionate and lately, even speaks the business gobbledygook that some career-oriented women spout today.

Two years ago, during the height of her popularity, Joyce Jimenez started her own business by doing sexy poses for a magazine that she herself produced. This was followed by a calendar, and later, her own brand of lingerie, which she simply called "Private Joyce." Today, she even has her own videoke VCD that shows her in revealing but artful poses, and has launched her own skin care products. She has a hand in all the intricate details of the business, from concept to marketing, and is even thinking of expanding it to other product lines.

Transformation

In this interview, the sexy siren shares the process of transformation that she underwent to get to where she is now:

JIMENEZ. Wants to prove that she's more than just a sexy star.

In what film did you really hit it big?

"Scorpio Nights." I remember my manager telling me that I was going to be built up as a sexy star. That was never hidden from me. That was really something that I decided to do.

Are you proud of that film?

Oo naman. I'm proud of all the films I did. When people says I'm a bold star, I don't really mind it. That was the way I was built up. I don't expect people to call me a teenybopper or a dramatic actress! People will always remember you the way you came in.

Who is your mentor?

No one in particular, but I've learned from all my directors. To me, experience is still the best teacher. Through the years, I'd like to believe, I've improved on my acting, even my *Tagalog.*

What made you go into business?

I wanted to do something different from show biz. I was at the peak of my career, so I said I'd use my name. It's something we planned.

What have you learned from going into business?

A lot! It's totally different. It makes you use your mind, you deal with numbers. It also has a lot to do with how you treat people. I've learned how the market behaves, the trends not just locally but also internationally.

Inventory

I check the sales, the inventory, when the stocks are going to come in, when do we have to pay? Practically everything!

What prompted you to do the videoke VCD?

We capitalized on the premise that Filipinos really love to sing and then we thought that, instead of slipshod videos, we'd do something *na maganda.*

How do you manage to be sexy and sweet at the same time?

I just play my roles. But whenever I have the time to show myself as I really am, *lumalabas talaga 'yon.* Like in interviews, I speak my mind and tell people how I really feel. I'm not speaking out of character, I'm not speaking in someone else's behalf. When I come out on TV, the real me comes out.

What's the real Joyce Jimenez like?

Somebody simple, who likes to be with friends.

Your love life is very low-key. Is that deliberate?

I like it that way. It's tough enough being in show business; it's harder if you have a love life.

Are you choosy about finding the right guy?

Yeah. I would really like someone who is intelligent, someone I can get along with.

What makes you happy?

My family. Everything around me, actually. All the blessings that I have right now.

How would you like to be remembered?

Someone who was able to prove that she's more than just a sexy star!

Cameron cruises back to Titanic with 3-D documentary

From page G1

while until I made a big score, then I was going to take a few years and do the things I always wanted to do."

That meant indulging old enthusiasms for hard science and technology. Cameron, who grew up near Niagara Falls, Canada, had studied marine biology and physics in college before switching to literature and moving into film work in the late 1970s for B-movie king Roger Corman.

"He's always been a futurist," said Bill Paxton, a co-star in "Titanic" and other Cameron movies, who went along on the director's 2001 ocean dives and narrates "Ghosts of the Abyss." "Jim's the kind of guy who thinks in terms of goals that won't be realized in his own lifetime . . .

"He's heralding the new technology, he's actually taking the time to bring these things on. He's more in the tradition of a Thomas Edison or an Alexander Bell."

For the next few years, Cameron plans to focus on feature films. But he will not disclose the plot or genre of the 3-D film that he hopes to start next December or January.

Unexpected drama

While Cameron's next fiction film is a long way off, he hit on some unexpected drama in "Ghosts of the Abyss." The film includes a tense sequence in which one of the robot cameras rescues the other, hauling it out by tether after its battery died deep inside Titanic.

After the rescue, one of Cameron's team grins into the camera aboard a minisub and announces the rescue time: 6:16 p.m., Sept. 11, 2001. Cameron and crew surfaced hours later to the news of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Sept. 11 also prompted Cameron to scrap a sequel to "True Lies," his comic spy thriller with Arnold Schwarzenegger, star of the "Terminator" movies.

"We were struggling with it, trying to figure out a story,"

CAMERON/ G4

'Dee's Day' on RPN-9

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THERE is a new tele-magazine show that will give viewers an intelligent alternative to bump-and-grind noontime shows.

Program hosts

"Dee's Day" over RPN-9 is hosted by former Press Undersecretary, spokesperson for President Cory Aquino and Manila Bulletin columnist, Deedee M. Siytangco. She is joined by her friend, Honeygirl S. De Leon, chairman of the PCSO.

"Dee's Day" is produced by RPN-9 as part of its new programming scheme. RPN-9 is concentrating on public service shows and beefing up its primetime programming with hits like "Ally McBeal," "Dharma and Greg," "NYPD Blues," "JAG" and other top-rating foreign shows.

"Dee's Day" features the "softer, gentler side of the news and the personalities who make the news." In short, the guests will be the kind of people Deedee meets and writes about. Honeygirl joined the show because she liked the values it projects.

The premiere telecast featured Tom and Baby Pastor, whose sons and daughters are car racing enthusiasts; artist Fernando Sena and his students, Peza director-general Lilia de Lima, former Undersecretary Rosie Castro and Chit Martinez, formerly with the Commission on Elections.

Guests

Guests on "Dee's Day" on Thursday, May 1 include some legislators and members of the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc., led by the energetic "Manay" Gina de Venecia, Speaker Joe's not-so secret weapon.

The show will take a closer and longer look at what makes these ladies tick: Gina, Adel Guinigundo (wife of Rep. Magtanggol Guinigundo); Trina Biazon (wife of Muntinlupa's Rep. Raffy Biazon); Louie Locsin (Makati Rep. Teddy Locsin's "boss"); TV actress Tessie Villarama (spouse of Rep. Willie Villarama of Bulacan); Margie Duavit (wife of Rep. Jack Duavit); Babette Nograles (wife of Rep. Boy Nograles; Shirley Plaza (wife of Mindanao's Rep. Plaza) and Thelma Dumpit Murillo (daughter of Rep. Dumpit).

A future show will feature two gifted tenors, the young Dean of the UP College of Music Ramon "Montet" Acoymo and Joshua Tiu in a musical showcase.

As in her columns, Deedee begins each show by sharing Angel Thoughts of the Week with Honeygirl. Viewers can send in their Angel Thoughts to dee-day@yahoo.com, or by mail to RPN-9, Broadcast City, Quezon City.

SIYTANGCO. Begins each show by sharing Angel Thoughts of the Week.

DE VENECIA. Speaker Joe's not-so-secret weapon.

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Three sisters make a gifted musical family

FLORES CHARMERS. Clockwise from top, Ana Katrina, Angeli Mae and Jazmine.

By Andy P. Bais

SOME parents are lucky. While others spend a fortune to develop whatever talents their children may have, Sam and Imee Flores are blessed with naturally-gifted children, specifically daughters Angeli Mae, Ana Katrina and Jazmine. All three have exceptional singing voices, and beautiful faces to boot.

Experienced

Of the three sisters, 13 year-old Angeli Mae is the more "popular" and experienced, having already performed and appeared in musical-theater productions and on national television.

At age nine, Angeli Mae was already singing her heart out professionally as one of the cast members of the hit religious musical revue "Nasaan si Hesus?" It was also in this touring production where her acting skills were honed.

"*Talagang natuto akong umarte sa* "Nasaan..." *dahil sa tiyaga ng aming direktor at ng* co-actors *ko. Dito ko rin natutunan na hindi lang ganda ng boses ang kailangan sa* musical theater. *Dapat pala alam mo rin ang ibig sabihin ng iyong kinakanta, at ang tamang* emotion," Angeli shares.

Distinction

Recently, Angeli had the distinction of being the youngest finalist in the Viva sponsored talent search "Star for a Night." Although she didn't bag the top award, her heartfelt and fresh rendition of Mandy Moore's "Cry" didn't go unnoticed.

Right after the show, she was tapped to appear on a TV soap. Weeks later, she essayed the role of the young Carol Banawa in Channel 2's "Maala-ala Mo Kaya." Those who've watched that particular episode were impressed with her performance and were one in saying that she has a bright future ahead of her as an actress.

She's now under managerial contract with Viva and, if plans push through, she'll be part of an all-girl group of three composed of "Star for a Night" discoveries. They will be recording an album next month.

A movie assignment is also in the offing, most probably a youth-oriented one that will be topbilled by Anne Curtis and Lucky Manzano. Angeli, who now stands at 5' 2", has also done pictorials for local teen magazines.

Limelight

For her part, Ana Katrina comes across as the "most quiet" among the three siblings. But her mom disagrees: "*Nahihiya lang yan kasi* she feels that Angeli and Jazmine are the ones in the limelight now. Supportive *naman siya sa kanyang dalawang kapatid. Pero,* the truth is, Ana Katrina is the best singer among the three."

Indeed, after Ana obliged our request for her to sing her signature song "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing," we conceded that the girl could really give other diva wannabes a run for their money.

Ana has won awards of recognition, proof that she really has what it takes to be a fine singer. Last year, she emerged as one of only four contestants out of 30 who were given special awards in the Metro Manila Inter-Collegiate Singing Competition.

Eighteen-year-old Ana is considering a career in musical theater, but her studies are her top priority at the moment. She'll be a sophomore nursing student this coming school year.

Rehearsals

Seven-year old Jazmine is the latest addition to the cast of "Nasaan si Hesus?" It's no wonder why she was eventually taken in as a cast member: she was always tagging along with her *Ate* Angeli for rehearsals.

Jazmine, who looks like a mini version of Angeli, is now doing some of the roles that her *Ate* used to play. And she impressed her co-actors with her unique gift of song and marked confidence as a young performer.

She floored everyone, when, before a performance, she prepared herself by vocalizing! Mom Imee, who accompanies Angeli and Jazmine during shows, was surprised at her little charmer's "professional" attitude toward her craft.

"*Talagang wala akong problema kay* Jazmine. *Nag-eensayo yan ng kanyang mga kanta at* dialogue *mag-isa, at siya din ang nag-aayos ng kanyang* costumes and props, " she proudly shares.

Sam and Imee are supportive of their daughters' artistic inclinations, but only up to a point: "If performing gets in the way of their studies, *ibang usapan na yon,*" they stress.

Cameron cruises back to Titanic with 3-D documentary

From page G2

Cameron said. "Then when Sept. 11 happened, I thought an action comedy about an anti-terrorism unit trying to stop Arab terrorists from smuggling nuclear weapons onto US soil was just not that funny anymore."

Minus Cameron as writer and director, Schwarzenegger stars in the upcoming "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines." The movie was directed by Jonathan Mostow, assuming the role of upstart director taking over someone else's franchise, which Cameron did when he directed 1986's "Aliens."

Not amused

"Alien" director Ridley Scott initially was not amused, Cameron said. The two subsequently have talked about doing an "Alien" film together, with Cameron writing and producing and Scott directing, Cameron said.

David Fincher's "Alien 3"—which killed off characters Cameron created, essentially negating the outcome of "Aliens"—has braced Cameron for anything that "Terminator 3" might deliver.

"I'm so over that by now. You can't hold on to that stuff," Cameron said. "There's nothing they can do to me on 'Terminator 3' that's going to be as outrageous as that." AP

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SATURDAY *Special*

Adam Sandler has become top box-office draw in Hollywood

He's a workaholic who's unwaveringly loyal to his friends

LOS ANGELES—Adam Sandler, who's become one of Hollywood's top box-office draws by playing infantile men prone to fisticuffs and tantrums, displays in real life a shambling politeness and faux-naive modesty.

Shy smile

With a shy smile, he often looks down as he speaks, while deflecting questions with self-deprecating jokes.

The 36-year-old comic's almost childlike behavior conceals his status as a Hollywood workaholic who's unwaveringly loyal to his friends.

"I was in his office 12 hours a day, and he was either working with me, or working on editing something else, or working on one of his other projects," said David Dorfman, screenwriter of "Anger Management," which costars Sandler and Jack Nicholson. "He worked nonstop."

Sandler has used his clout not only to gain greater control over his own films, but also to boost the careers of former "Saturday Night Live" TV show friends such as Rob Schneider, David Spade and Dana Carvey by guiding their pet projects through the studio system.

Benevolent mogul

Dorfman described Sandler as "a benevolent mogul," and Carvey said his 2002 film, "The Master of Disguise," would have gone nowhere without Sandler's help.

"I mean, I owe him. I don't really know why he did it, you'd have to ask him. But it was great to have him push it through. I guess I was nice to him on 'Saturday Night Live,'" Carvey said, adding with a laugh: "Thank God."

But some Sandler favors backfire. He gave directing duties of "The Master of Disguise" to his longtime production designer Perry Andelin Blake, although Blake had no previous experience. Critics complained that the film was a mess, and Sony was still reworking the movie shortly before its release last summer.

Carvey had already starred on the late-night comedy show for five years when Sandler began appearing in 1991, the same year as Spade, whose 2001 film, "Joe Dirt," and upcoming "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star" were produced by Sandler.

During his five-year run on the show, Sandler was known for impish characters such as Canteen Boy and musical bits such as Operaman. "SNL" was also the launching pad for his enduring holiday hit "The Chanukah Song," a comical compendium of Jewish celebrities.

Before that, Sandler had worked mainly as a standup comedian, getting laughs with his jittery delivery. That's where friends say he developed his regular-guy charm.

Genuinely nervous

"He's genuinely nervous on stage, and that's become part of his persona," Schneider said. "He's genuinely nervous up there, and then it's a surprise that he's funny and you become relaxed."

Sandler had small roles in 1993's "Coneheads" and the 1994 comedies "Mixed Nuts" and "Airheads" before getting his first starring role in 1995's "Billy Madison," about a lazy 20-something who goes back to elementary school so he can inherit his rich father's business.

The low-budget film grossed $25 million, and Sandler followed it the next year with "Happy Gilmore," about a golf prodigy with a violent temper. That film, which featured a memorable fist

ADAM/ H2

NICHOLSON and Sandler in their biggest hit, "Anger Management."

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JAMES and Byrnes co-star in "What Every Girl Wants."

WARREN. No contest.

MCELHONE (right) with George Clooney in "Solaris."

New stars for old

By Nestor U. Torre

AS veteran stars lose their luster, producers are banking on exciting new talents to get viewers to patronize their latest films. Some fresh-faced standouts:

Teen protagonist

"What Every Girl Wants" leads off with two of them. Pert, young TV star ("The Amanda Show" on Nickelodeon) Amanda Byrnes plays the movie's teen protagonist, 17-year-old Daphne Reynolds, who's been raised by her mother in New York City but flies off to London to look for her long-lost Britain father, Lord Henry Dashwood (Colin Firth).

The film also stars Oliver James as a British lad named Ian, the female lead's love interest. Director Dennie Gordon had auditioned about 500 young actors and found nobody right for the role—until Oliver finally walked in, and gave a terrific audition that clinched the plum part for him.

Producer Bill Gerber on Byrnes: "We needed a vibrant teenager to play Daphne, and we found exactly what we were looking for in Amanda. She's very bright and has incredible comic timing. She was only 15 when we first met her about this project, and it's rare to find someone that young with such maturity and talent.

For her part, director Gordon raves about 22-year-old Oliver: "He first auditioned for us as a singer, and he sang really well—so I thought, 'With a voice like that, there's no way that he can also act!' But then, we read some lines and he was so tender, fresh and natural that my head just flew off my shoulders!"

Born and raised in London, Oliver was all set to major in English at Bristol University, but his girlfriend was studying at the prestigious Guilford School for Performing Arts, so he enrolled at the same school to be with her.

New boy band

After studying acting at Guilford, he found a London agent and made his living as an actor in plays and commercials. Before he could act in a film, however, former Spice Girls manager Simon Fuller tapped him to join a new boy band. He was deep into rehearsals for the band when he auditioned for "What a Girl Wants," and quit the Fuller project.

Meanwhile, in "Kangaroo Jack," model turned actress Estella Warren plays Jessie, a resourceful American wildlife conservationist who helps New Yorkers Charlie (Jerry O'Connell) and Louis (Anthony Anderson) track a wily kangaroo across the dense Australian outback.

Estella clinched the role because, producer Jerry Bruckheimer recalls, "She lit up the screen when we auditioned her. There was no contest. She has an approachable elegance that's attractive to both men and women. And she exudes the same warmth and charm that Jerry and Anthony do. They make a great team!"

Estella made her feature film debut in "Driven," and was also in Tim Burton's "Planet of the Apes."

Finally, another lovely former model, Natascha McElhone, plays the female lead in George Clooney's new starrer, "Solaris," directed by Steven Soderbergh. She portrays Clooney's beloved and troubled wife Rheya, whose untimely death years earlier continues to haunt him.

Sci-fi thriller

"Solaris" is a sci-fi thriller that tells a story of love, redemption, second chances and a space mission gone terribly wrong. Clooney's character is ordered to investigate the weird behavior of scientists on a space station that has cut off all communication with Earth. When he gets to the space station, he finds himself inexorably drawn to its dangerous mysteries.

But it presents him with a second chance at love—to change the course of a past relationship that has caused him overwhelming grief and remorse. And McElhone's "ghostly" character shows him the way to possible redemption.

Byrnes, James, Warren and McElhone may not yet be as popular as established stars of the silver screen, but they've taken their all-important first big steps and public reaction has been very positive, so they're getting there!

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"Mangoes stimulate and energize the nervous system. They cure constipation, activate the kidneys, and prompt the flow of urine, which enables the system to flush out toxins. A drink made from a juicy mango that has a lot of fiber is a cure for people who suffer from too little digestive heat, chronic dysentery, or constipation. Mangoes soaked in syrup give energy; they remove constipation and are a tonic for the brain, stomach, lungs and blood."

Vitamins

"Papayas are rich in vitamins, especially vitamin A. Papayas also contain protein, B vitamins, vitamin C (which increases as the fruit ripens), and minerals, such as calcium, phosphorus and iron. The carbohydrate in papayas contains mainly invert sugar, which is readily absorbed into the blood. As the fruit is exposed to the sun, it gets sweeter and richer in vitamins.

Cure

"Ayurvedic doctors prescribe papaya to people suffering from liver, heart and or intestinal trouble. The fruit is also used as a cure for intestinal worms. Papaya encourages the appetite and helps digestion; it is a diuretic and prevents flatulence. Papaya has a soothing effect on the stomach and pancreas. Raw papaya is helpful to patients with liver trouble. It also makes the muscle fibers of the womb contract, thus aiding menstrual flow.

"Lemons are an appetizer—they stimulate digestion and assimilation. Lemons are healers—they calm the system and provide nutrients. Because lemons contain vitamin C and bioflavonoids, they prevent scurvy and capillary fragility. Lemons also contain B vitamins as well as minerals such as sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, iron, copper, phosphorus and sulfur. Lemons relieve thirst, are cooling, soothe the nerves, and cure nausea. They are used for digestion, acidity, dysentery and diarrhea.

Sedative

"Lemon juice is a sedative for the heart and reduces palpitations. The juice is helpful for people with high blood pressure and for the bowels, kidneys, uterus and other parts of the body. Lemons stimulate the flow of saliva and cure loss of appetite and dyspepsia. Lemons encourage the secretion of bile and are, therefore recommended for patients with jaundice.

"Because they convert into an alkaline substance during digestion, lemons counteract conditions such as acidity, rheumatism, and gout. Lemon juice is an organic disinfectant that causes no harm to body tissues. It prevents the formation of stones. Lemon juice checks colds and possesses an anti-pneumonia substance. Lemons cure gas and the juice is a mild laxative.

"Lemon juice taken with lukewarm water every morning cures constipation. Drinking the juice through a straw will prevent erosion of tooth enamel. Lemon juice taken in lukewarm water with a tablespoon of honey as the first drink of the day helps dieters lose weight. Lemons are also used in fasting. A one-week lemon-water fast cures all diseases of the stomach and intestines. Constant use of lemon juice with food or in food, or of lemon pickles, keeps the body in good shape."

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

Adam Sandler has become . . .

From page H1

fight between Sandler's character and "The Price Is Right" host Bob Barker, collected $38 million.

While critics consistently trashed his work, Sandler's fan base grew with hits such as 1998's "The Wedding Singer," which earned $80 million, followed by "The Waterboy" and "Big Daddy," which each collected more than $160 million. That gave Sandler the freedom to do as he pleased, and he chose to give a helping hand to Schneider, whose career had been reduced to a few supporting roles in some of Sandler's films. "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," which Schneider co-wrote and starred in as a hapless male escort, became a $65 million hit for Sandler's production company, Happy Madison.

Cartoon

Although Sandler's 2000 comedy "Little Nicky" was a step backward from his recent blockbuster hits—underperforming with a $39 million gross—he still persuaded Sony Pictures to gamble on a cartoon partially inspired by a line in "The Chanukah Song."

The studio had avoided getting into the costly and risky business of animation, but studio boss Amy Pascal agreed to make 2002's "Eight Crazy Nights" after hearing a personal pitch from Sandler. Dorfman joked that the studio probably would have made "a Kabuki play" if Sandler had wanted. "If nothing else they respect box office," he said.

But the cartoon gamble didn't pay off as Sandler had hoped; "Eight Crazy Nights" earned only $24 million.

Sandler also spent some of his influence to get Sony's support for last year's "Punch-Drunk Love," an arty, esoteric comedy-drama about a repressed man who falls in love despite his horrible bouts of rage.

The movie earned only about $18 million, but friends said the film's somber elements attracted a highbrow audience that had previously sneered at Sandler.

"It's in a more acceptable form where critics can appreciate him, finally," Schneider said. "These people were six months ago (saying,) 'moron,' 'idiot,' 'idiot savant,' at best."

When film critic Roger Ebert, who had despised all of Sandler's previous films, crossed paths with the comic at a party, he praised him for "Punch-Drunk Love." "I will have to tell my parents, so they can watch your show again," Sandler reportedly responded. "They had to stop watching your show because it made them say bad words." *AP*

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM APRIL 26 - MAY 3

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Sheila Francisco is bent on always doing her best

By Jocelyn Valle

FRANCISCO. Rave reviews in London.

INSPIRED by the success of "Celebrity Night" last month at Uva restaurant, where movie and TV stars worked as waiters for one evening, owners Franco Laurel and Ayen Munji decided to produce a monthly special to promote their dining haven at Greenbelt 2.

Musical-theater hits

"Theater Night," held last April 12, had first-rate performing artists Nonie Buencamino, Gigi Posadas, Lyn Sherman, Sheila Francisco, Ricci Chan, JM Rodriguez, Mayen Bustamante, Lana Jalosjos, Noel Rayos, Franco and Ayen dishing out musical-theater hits at the space across Uva.

Franco and Ayen personally handpicked the line-up of performers. "We asked them to give us a list of the songs they'd like to do," he explains. The result was a repertoire of popular tunes from grand stage productions.

The couple specifically asked Sheila Francisco to sing "Bali Hai" and "Happy Talk"—the two songs that earned her rave reviews as Bloody Mary in the recent staging of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific" by the Royal National Theater at the Olivier Theater in London.

Request

Sheila graciously gave in to Franco and Ayen's request. "I'm so proud of those songs," she exclaims, relating to us how, after she sang "Bali Hai" and "Happy Talk" in an audition in London almost two years ago, esteemed director Trevor Nunn beamed with joy.

It turned out that Nunn had been relentlessly searching for the perfect Bloody Mary. Since "Miss Saigon," the Philippines has become a source of exceptional talents for West End producers, and that's how the director's quest found its way to the country.

Her London experience taught Sheila some precious lessons: "*Mas minahal ko ang* craft *ko*," smiles the self-confessed late bloomer in the field of theater who debuted in 1991's "Joseph the Dreamer."

"*Sobra kasi ang* appreciation *ng* talent *doon, kaya kailangan ma*-match *'yun ng* dedication *mo sa trabaho*. I love theater and I always give my best to whatever I do, but I'm even more committed now to doing my best."

Humble man

Sheila glows when asked about the director, whose impressive body of work includes hit musicals "Cats," "Les Miserables," "Starlight Express," "Chess" and "Sunset Boulevard." "*Para siyang tatay*," she gushes. "He never lost his temper, he never shouted. He was a humble man."

She also feels fortunate to have spent one Christmas with Nunn and his family. "*Siya ang nagluto*," she recalls with awe. "His wife washed the dishes. Touched *na* touched *talaga ako* when I was there."

As a bonus, she was able to meet theater luminaries like Elaine Paige and Glenn Close. She recounts her encounter with Close, the versatile Hollywood star known for her portrayal of extraordinary women ("The World According to Garp" and "Fatal Attraction"): "She said, 'Your voice! Where did they find you?'"

Sheila hopes she can work again with the Royal National Theater, and that a part in a sitcom for the British Broadcasting Company pushes through.

Meantime, she's set to appear in two musicals this year ("Honk" in August and September, and "The Full Monty" in October and November), plus a possible one-woman play.

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Mother Angelica well on the road to recovery

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR recent piece on the EWTN channel's Mother Angelica got a good reaction from a number of viewers, some of whom faxed copies of the article all the way to the headquarters of the Eternal Word Television Network in the States.

TV screen

Well, now they know that there are many Filipinos who love Mother, miss her on the TV screen, want to know how she is now, and are praying for her complete recovery.

We wrote the article partly to get an update on Mother Angelica's condition, and we thank EWTN Pacific's Edwin Lopez for giving us exactly that.

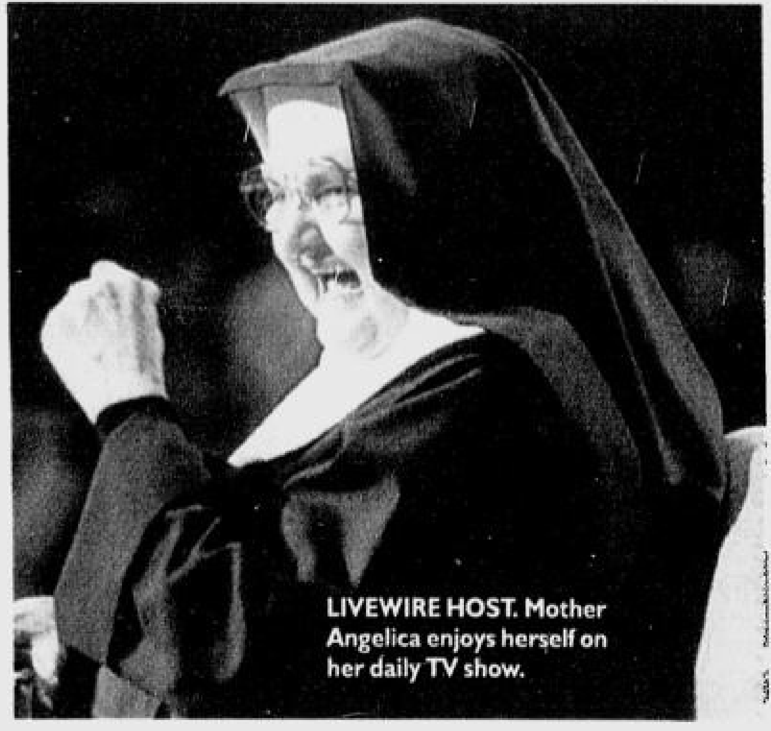
The update from the States reads in part:

"Despite the fact that Mother Angelica still has difficulty communicating properly as a result of the serious stroke she suffered on Christmas Eve in 2001, she was able to read many of the prayers of the Holy Rosary that was taped last October.

"According to Doug Keck, vice president of programming and production, EWTN's production team taped Mother Angelica and the nuns of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Alabama.

RITA Rizzo (Mother Angelica's real name) at age one and a half in 1924.

AT 17, Rita worked hard helping her mother with the dry cleaning business when not going to school.



LIVEWIRE HOST. Mother Angelica enjoys herself on her daily TV show.

Rosary

"The taping took four consecutive days. The nuns prayed the Mysteries of the Rosary during their morning devotions. Keck said the network is now airing the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries and the Glorious Mysteries, as well as the new Luminous Mysteries introduced by Pope John Paul II as he proclaimed 2003 the Year of the Rosary.

"Keck also noted that Mother Angelica was extremely happy to participate in the tapings because she knew she was joining her prayers with those of her EWTN family, whom she misses so much.

"Mother Angelica attends daily Mass with the nuns, and spends much of her time each day in prayer, in front of the Blessed Sacrament."

Stroke

We're glad that Mother's recovery is proceeding apace. We've seen the tape of the Rosary featuring her, and we're happy to note that she looks much better on it than on her last EWTN appearance after her stroke, when half of her face appeared to be paralyzed, and she was wearing an eye patch.

EWTN's visionary leader beams as her TV studio is being constructed.

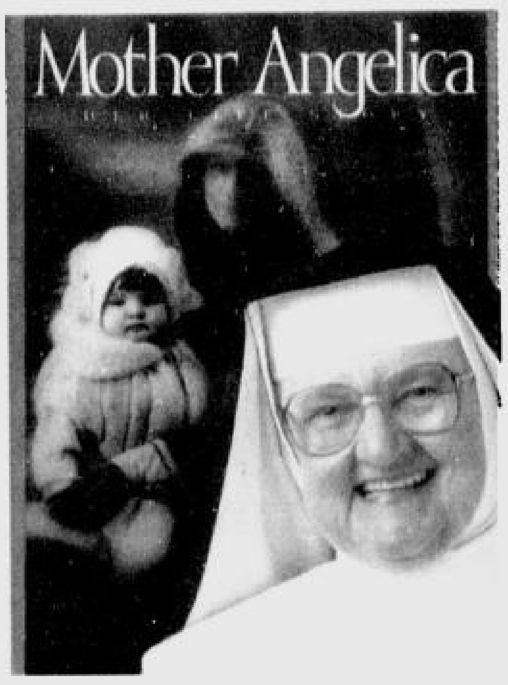
We trust that, later this year, Mother Angelica can resume hosting her popular interview program on EWTN, the network she put up two decades ago. Today, the EWTN Global Catholic Network is viewed by more than 80 million television households in 107 countries, and is the largest religious media network in the world.

Internet

If you wish to catch the Holy Rosary taped by Mother and her monastery's other nuns, it airs daily at 5 p.m. EST on EWTN's radio network, on TV at 9:30 p.m. EST, and simultaneously on the Internet (www.ewtn.com).

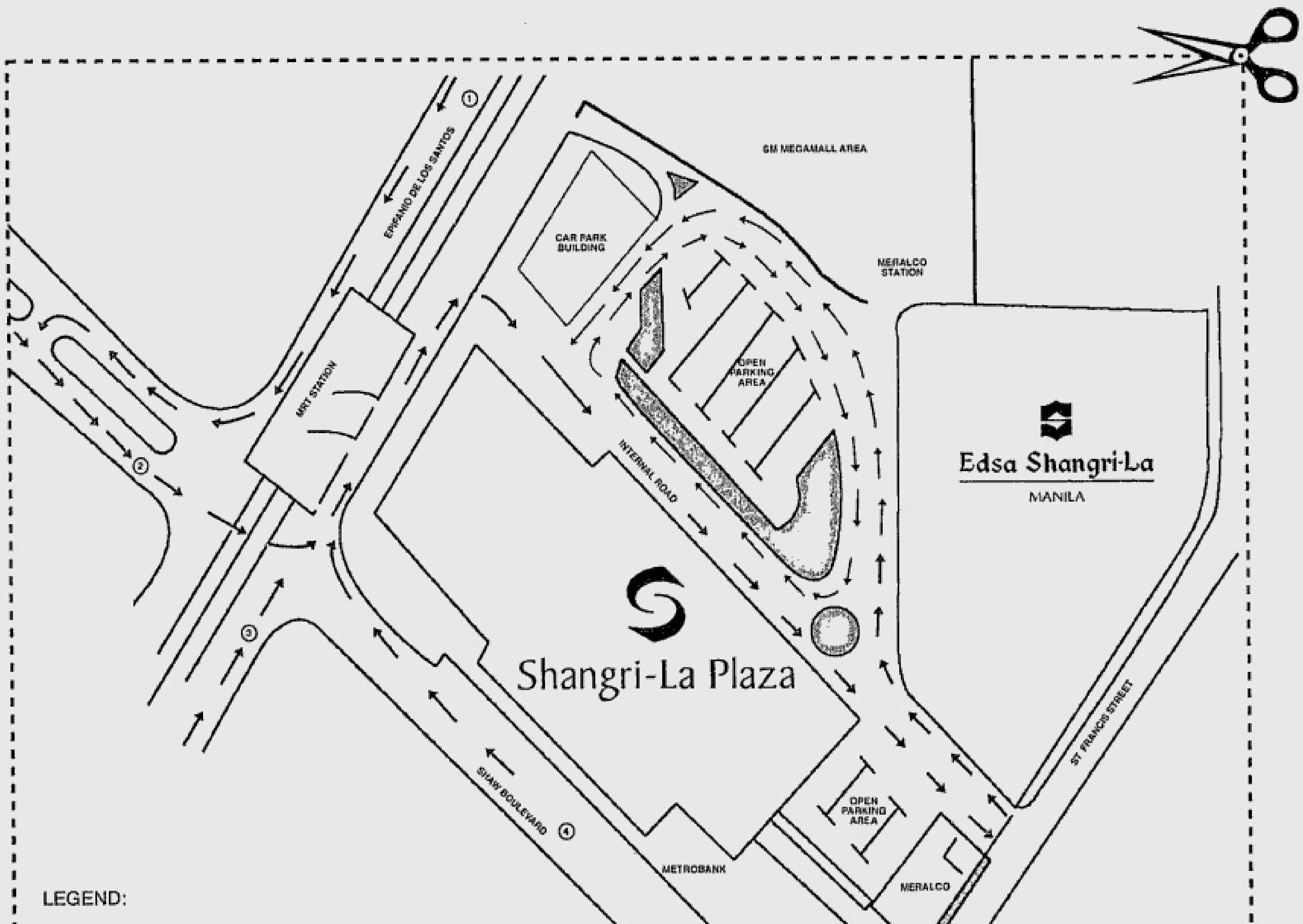
Finally, EWTN greeted Mother Angelica on her birthday last April 22 with a special live program featuring some of her loyal followers all over the world. The Philippines was represented by Jeanne Young.

We thank Edwin Lopez for the info, and for the two books on Mother Angelica that he sent us, which we'll write about soonest.



MOTHER ANgelica's biography, written by Dan O'Neill.

THE FASTEST WAY TO SHANGRI-LA IS THROUGH THIS SHORT CUT.



LEGEND:

1. COMING FROM CUBAO OR SAN JUAN, TAKE CROSSING IBABAW THEN TURN RIGHT AT SHAW BLVD., THEN U-TURN GOING BACK TO EDSA, THEN LEFT TURN TO INTERNAL ROAD GOING TO THE MALL MAIN ENTRANCE

2. COMING FROM MANILA, TAKE SHAW UNDER THE SHAW FLYOVER, THEN TURN LEFT AT EDSA, THEN TURN RIGHT AT INTERNAL ROAD.

3. COMING FROM MAKATI TAKE CROSSING IBABAW GOING STRAIGHT, THEN TURN RIGHT AT INTERNAL ROAD.

4. COMING FROM PASIG TAKE SHAW BLVD , TURN RIGHT AT EDSA THEN TURN RIGHT AT INTERNAL ROAD.

NEW MMDA TRAFFIC FLOW

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SATURDAY Special

Eastwood, von Trier vie for Cannes filmfest prize

By Marc Burleigh

PARIS—Movies by Clint Eastwood and Lars von Trier are among 20 films nominated to vie for the top prize at this year's Cannes film festival, but the hot tickets in the early days of the May 14-25 event are for two Hollywood blockbusters being screened out of competition.

Leading lights

"Matrix: Reloaded" and "Terminator 3," long-awaited installments in the two hugely successful sci-fi action franchises, are getting the full publicity treatment and promise to be the leading lights on the festival's dizzying party circuit.

They also make up for the unusually low quota of Hollywood releases in the competition line-up, something Cannes' organizers shrugged off as simply the way the selection worked out this year, and not anything to do with the frosty ties these days between France and the United States.

EASTWOOD. Has directed the high-profile crime drama, "Mystic River."

Unseen titles

Virtually all the 20 films in competition for the prestigious Palme d'Or award are unseen titles that will get their worldwide premiere, in line with Cannes' traditional role as the debutantes' ball for the global cinema industry.

There is, as is also customary, a mix of solid cinematographic veterans mixed with a slew of rising talent breaking new ground.

Clint Eastwood's "Mystic River," a crime drama starring Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon and Tim Robbins, will probably be the most high-profile of the films.

But it faces stiff competition from movies made by Cannes favorites von Trier, Denmark's remarkable don of Dogma filmmaking, and Peter Greenaway, the British director known for his lush and complex productions.

Von Trier—who has been nominated for the Palme d'Or five times and won in 2000 with "Dancer in the Dark"—will be presenting "Dogville," a story about a woman (Nicole Kidman) who runs away to a small US town in the Rockies in the 1930s.

Greenaway—a three-time Palme

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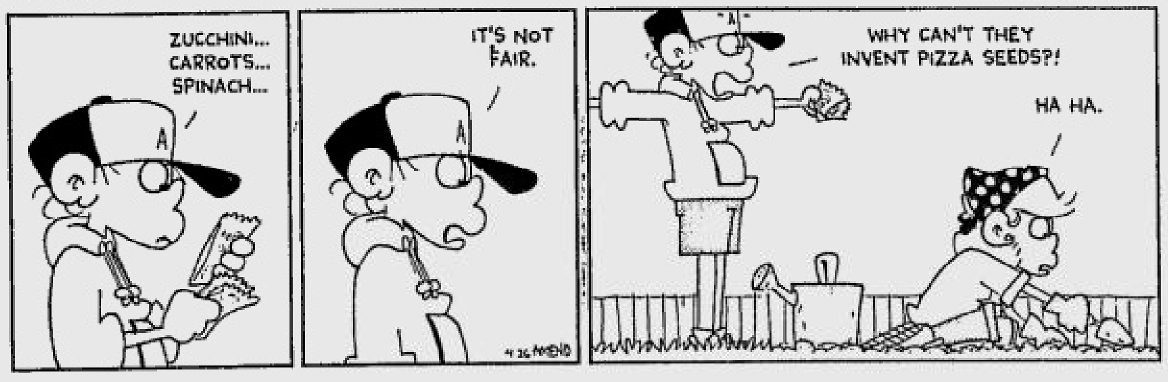
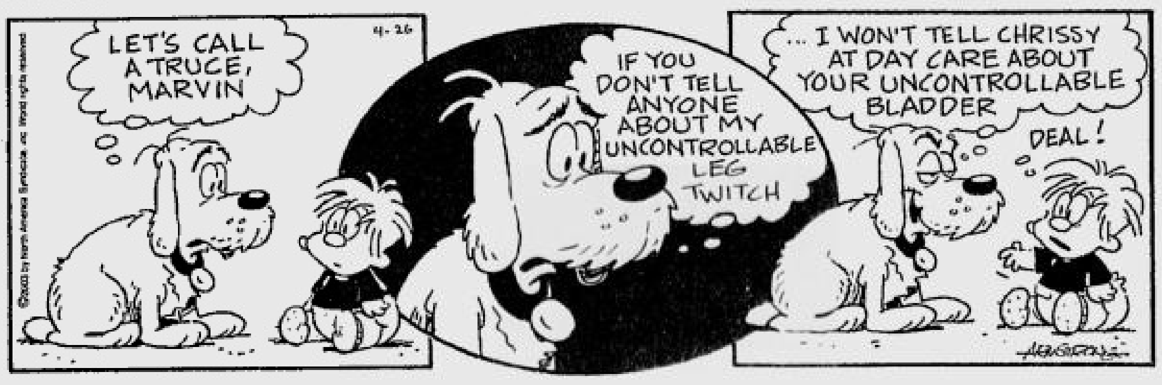
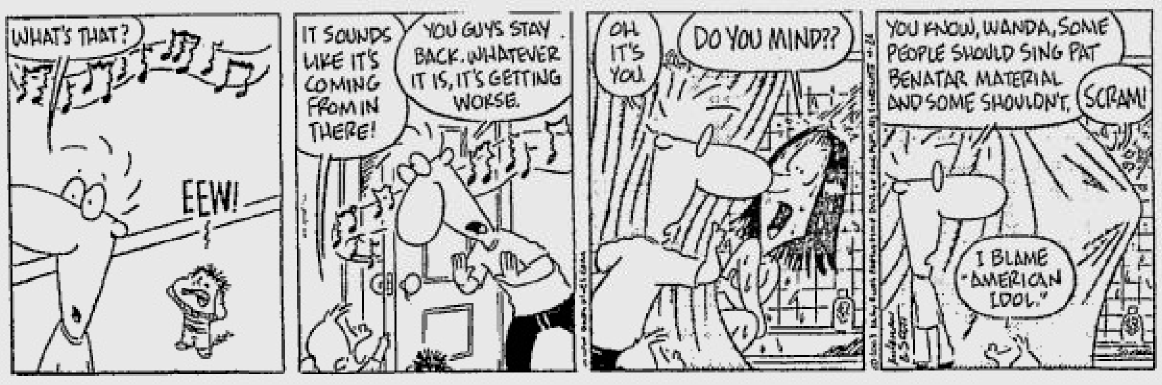

ZUCCHINI... CARROTS... SPINACH...
IT'S NOT FAIR.
WHY CAN'T THEY INVENT PIZZA SEEDS?!
HA HA.
4 26 AMEND

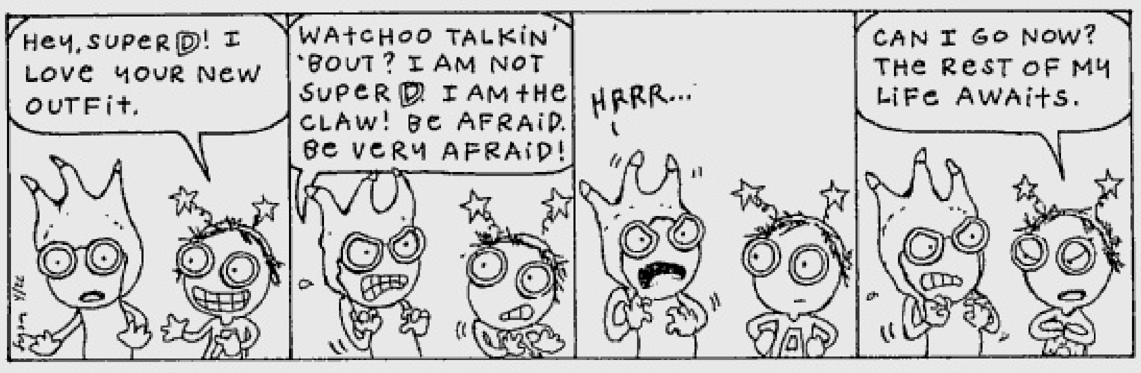
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


4-26
LET'S CALL A TRUCE, MARVIN
IF YOU DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT MY UNCONTROLLABLE LEG TWITCH
... I WON'T TELL CHRISSY AT DAY CARE ABOUT YOUR UNCONTROLLABLE BLADDER
DEAL!

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S THAT?
EEW!
IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM IN THERE!
YOU GUYS STAY BACK. WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S GETTING WORSE.
OH. IT'S YOU.
DO YOU MIND??
YOU KNOW, WANDA, SOME PEOPLE SHOULD SING PAT BENATAR MATERIAL AND SOME SHOULDN'T.
SCRAM!
I BLAME "AMERICAN IDOL."

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, SUPER D! I Love your New OUTFit.
WATCHOO TALKIN' 'BOUT? I AM NOT SUPER D. I AM THE CLAW! BE AFRAID. BE VERY AFRAID!
HRRR...
CAN I GO NOW? THE REST OF MY LIFE AWAITS.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong social conscience and are often dedicated to a cause. You can work behind the scenes and accomplish a lot. You believe that it is important to use your life wisely. This year many phases of your life will end in order to make room for new ones to begin.
Birthdate of: August Wilson, playwright; Sandy Dennis, actress; Coretta Scott King, civil-rights activist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have some bright moneymaking ideas right now. Go back to the dreams you had before, the ones you threw aside. Take a second look at them to see if they have any merit.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have a strong desire to talk to other people now and to express your point of view about life in general. So much is happening in the world now; life is more interesting than television!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have private plans that you don't wish to particularly discuss with anyone at the moment. This is entirely your right. You don't have to walk around with a billboard on your head.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Discussions with a friend can reassure you today. Sometimes it doesn't matter what is mentioned, it is bonding with another person that you need.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Avoid conflict or tension with partners now. Discussions with someone senior to you today (your boss, a parent, the police) reveal important information.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Explore every possibility to learn something new about the arts, philosophy, other countries and literature. How can you make your world bigger and more beautiful?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your ability to research anything is excellent today and will be for the next several weeks. If you need to do any work that requires this skill, get down to it!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with close friends and partners are important now. Make sure that you are very clear in all your communications. It's essential to be understood as well as to merely speak.

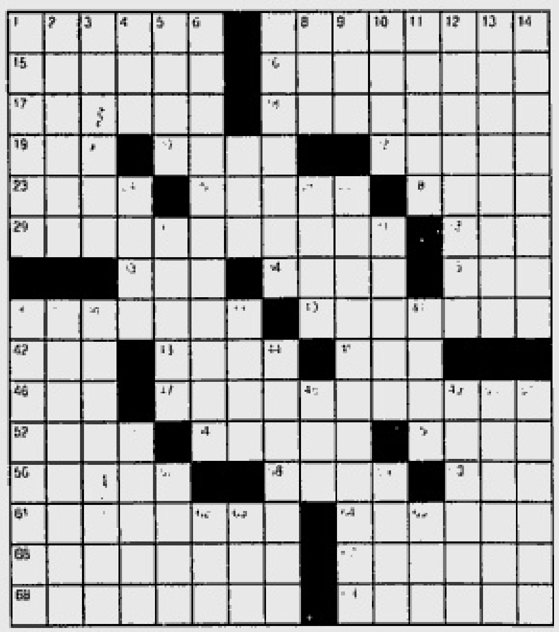
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Roll up your sleeves and get to work on something now. You have the energy necessary to get something done and follow it through to the end.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Playful flirtations promise to give you a lot to think about lately. Aside from that, enjoyable activities with children will please you this weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): An unusual combination takes place in your sign. On one hand, you are more assertive and aggressive than usual; yet in another way, you have more grace, diplomacy and charm. (Go figure.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Talk to siblings, neighbors and relatives about issues you find personally oppressive. Don't be afraid to speak up and tell it like it is.

DAILY CROSSWORD

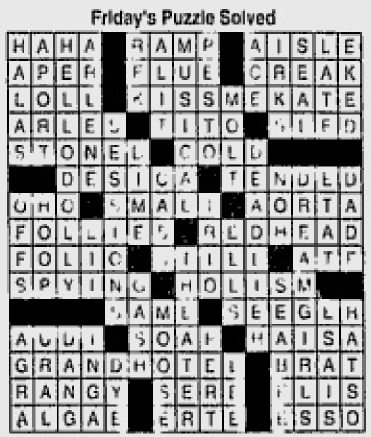


By Annabel Michaels
Williamsburg, VA
4/26/03

ACROSS
1 Infinitely extended
7 Skater Witt
15 Give one's consent
16 Cities in Texas and Kansas
17 Purloined
18 Keepsakes
19 Bunny move
20 On the peak of
22 Scree element
23 Three-sided rapier
25 Teheran resident
28 Obstacle
29 Pretenders
32 Mindanao people
33 Fruity cooler
34 Out of kilter
35 Mai __ cocktail
36 Mobius and Strindberg
40 Male hawks
42 '50s president
43 Author Ambler
45 By way of
46 Operate
47 1986 Redford movie
52 Go gaga
54 Clip off
55 Continental currency
56 Knot over
58 Raced
60 According to
61 Soothing plant juice
64 Slangy refusal
66 Globe flattener?
67 Black and Eastwood
68 Concentrated substances
69 First-born

DOWN
1 Exchanged for currency
2 Couple with sixteen arms?
3 Monkey-trial defendant
4 Gibson or Torme
5 Creative spark
6 French measures
7 Uganda capital
8 First name in honesty
9 Curry of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"
10 Alternatives to lagers
11 Landlord's revenue
12 Chant
13 Newborn
14 African spear trees
21 Globe in poetry
24 Jacob's twin brother
26 Small salamander
27 Lack of due respect
30 One Ford
31 Assad's country
36 Structure of a plane
37 Hawaiian guitars
38 Natural fathers
39 Audible exhalation
41 Canary residence
44 Roman emperors
48 Pool length
49 Like a wolf
50 Puts up
51 Most painful
53 Element
57 Writer Hunter
59 Barbie or Ken
62 & so on
63 __ v. Wade
65 What _ _ I tell you!

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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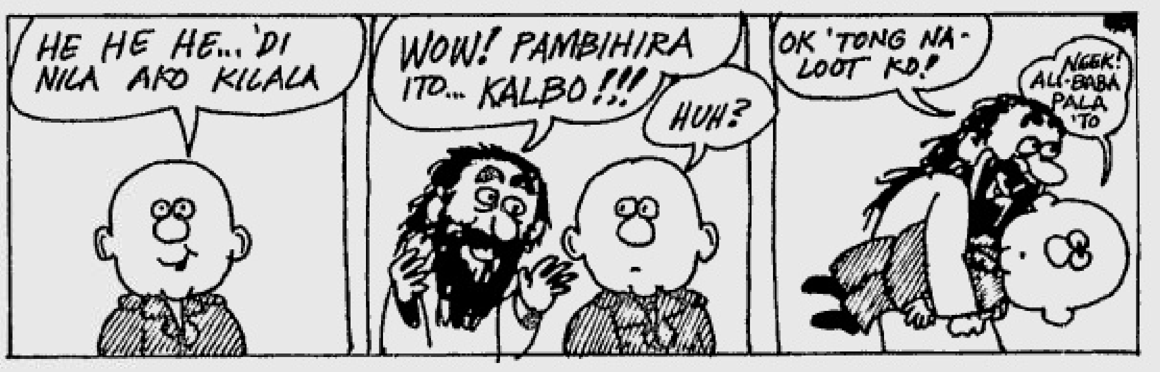
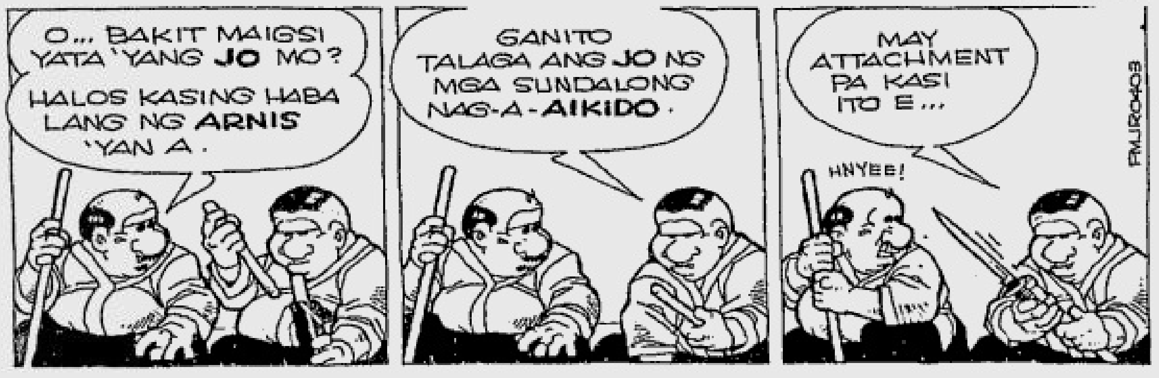
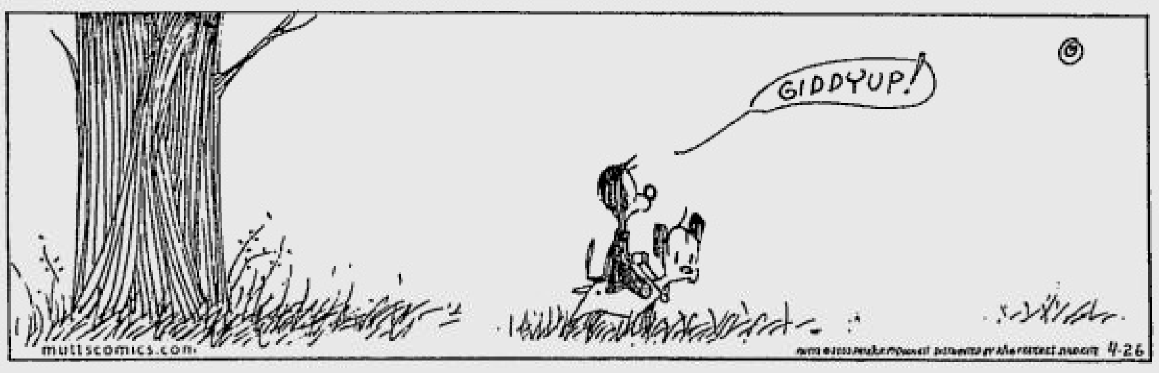
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HE HE HE... 'DI NILA AKO KILALA
WOW! PAMBIHIRA ITO... KALBO!!!
HUH?
OK 'TONG NA-LOOT KO!
NGEK! ALI-BABA PALA 'TO

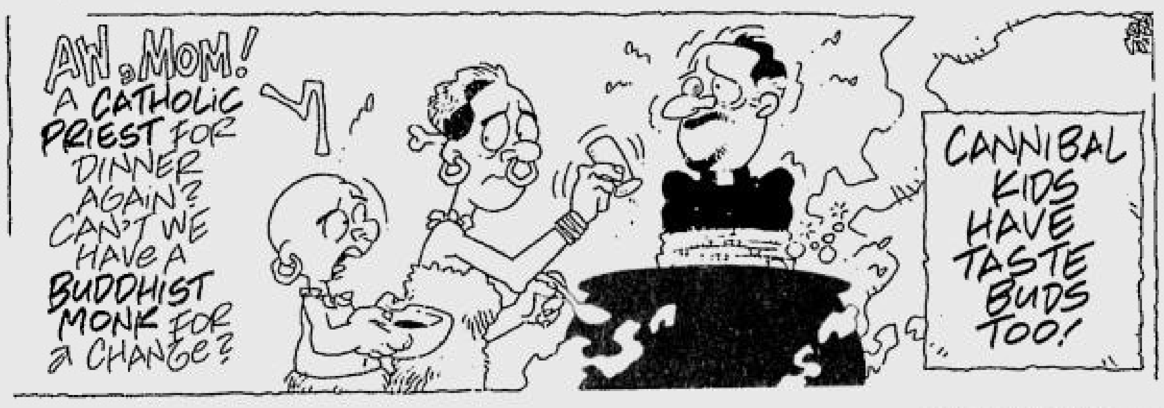
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... BAKIT MAIGSI YATA 'YANG JO MO?
HALOS KASING HABA LANG NG ARNIS 'YAN A.
GANITO TALAGA ANG JO NG MGA SUNDALONG NAG-A-AIKIDO.
MAY ATTACHMENT PA KASI ITO E...
HNYEE!
PMJR0403

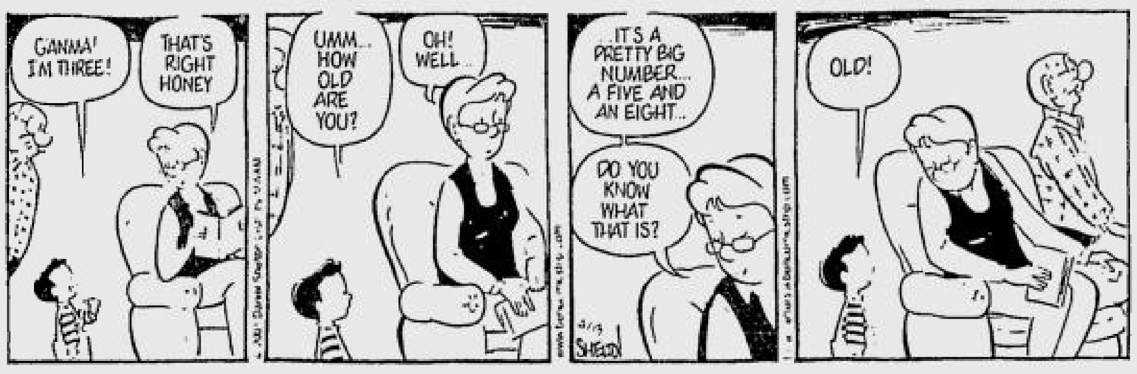
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GIDDYUP!
muttscomics.com
4-26

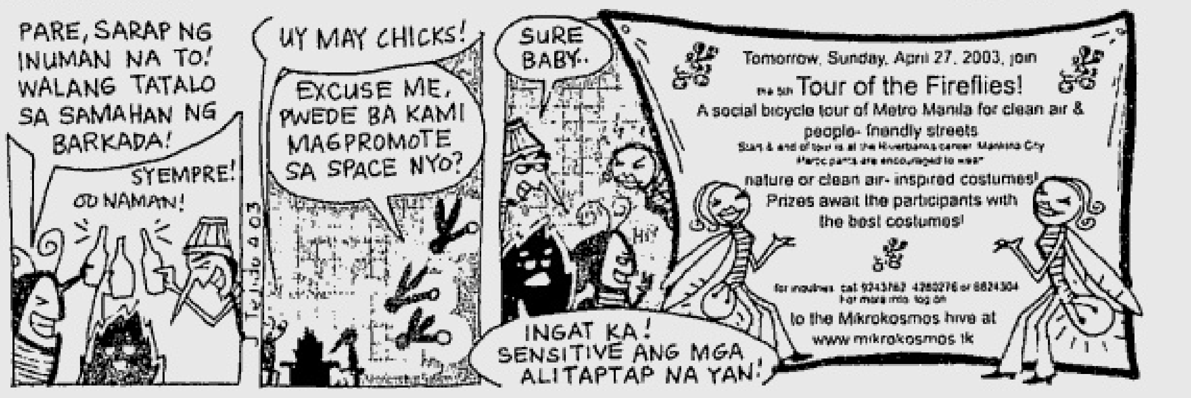
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AW, MOM! A CATHOLIC PRIEST FOR DINNER AGAIN? CAN'T WE HAVE A BUDDHIST MONK FOR A CHANGE?
CANNIBAL KIDS HAVE TASTE BUDS TOO!

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


GANMA! I'M THREE!
THAT'S RIGHT HONEY
UMM... HOW OLD ARE YOU?
OH! WELL...
IT'S A PRETTY BIG NUMBER... A FIVE AND AN EIGHT...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
OLD!

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PARE, SARAP NG INUMAN NA TO! WALANG TATALO SA SAMAHAN NG BARKADA!
SYEMPRE!
OO NAMAN!
UY MAY CHICKS!
EXCUSE ME, PWEDE BA KAMI MAGPROMOTE SA SPACE NYO?
SURE BABY..
HI!
INGAT KA! SENSITIVE ANG MGA ALITAPTAP NA YAN!

Tomorrow, Sunday, April 27, 2003, join the 5th Tour of the Fireflies!
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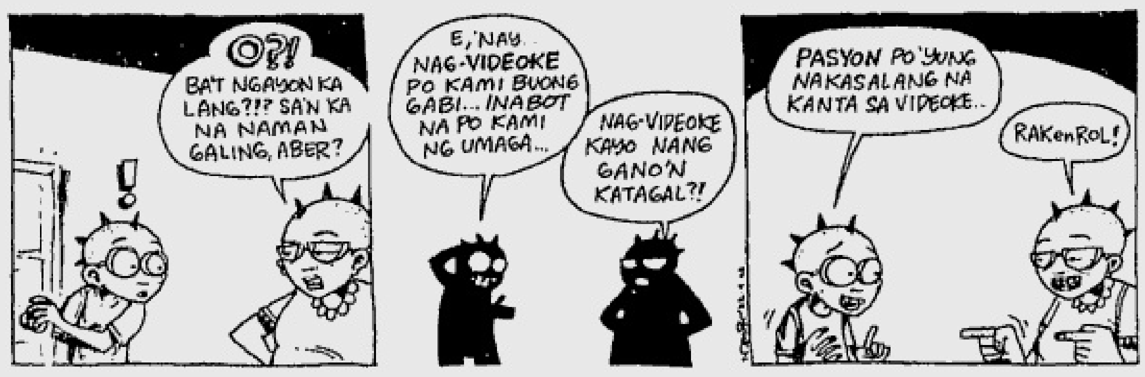
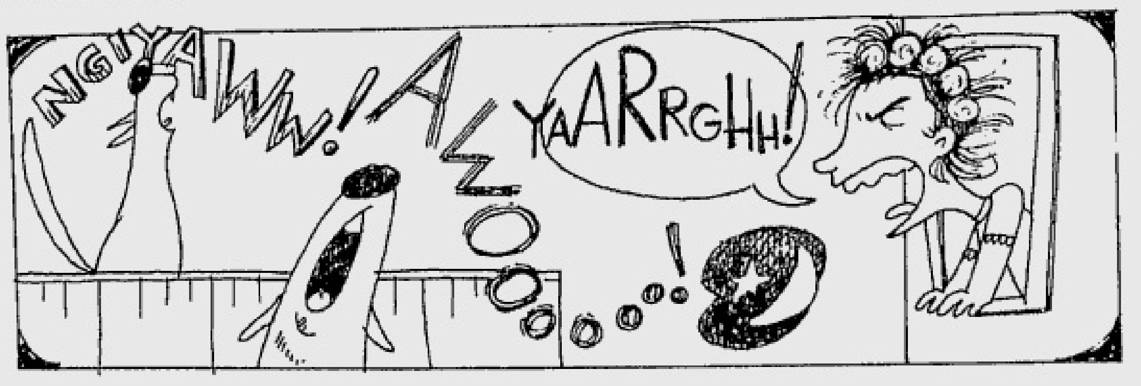
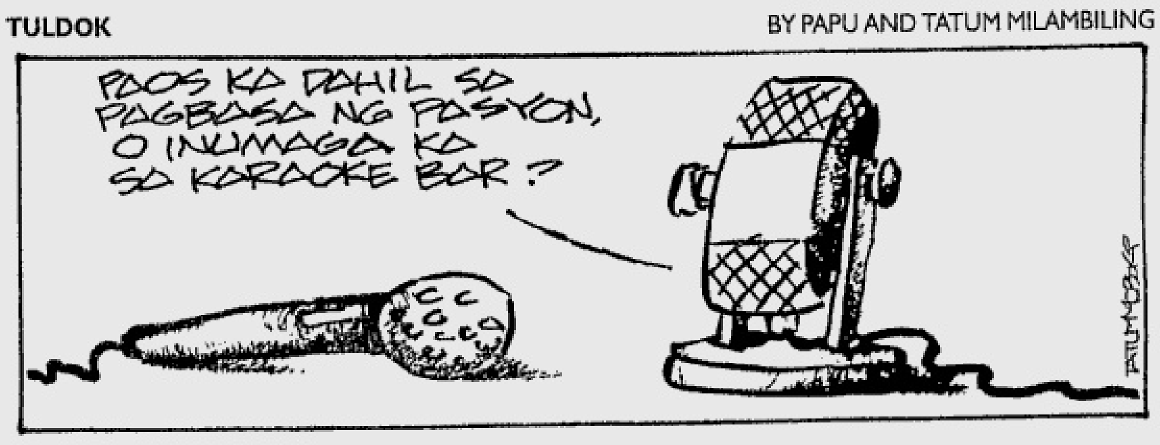
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


O?!
BA'T NGAYON KA LANG?!? SA'N KA NA NAMAN GALING, ABER?
E, 'NAY. NAG-VIDEOKE PO KAMI BUONG GABI... INABOT NA PO KAMI NG UMAGA...
NAG-VIDEOKE KAYO NANG GANO'N KATAGAL?!
PASYON PO 'YUNG NAKASALANG NA KANTA SA VIDEOKE..
RAKenROL!

FUZZ THERAPY BY SUSIE AND CALVIN


NGIYAWW!
AZZOOoo..!
YAARRGHH!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAOS KA DAHIL SA PAGBASA NG PASYON, O INUMAGA KA SA KARAOKE BAR?
TATUMBOBAR

The rise, fall and vindication of Ingrid Bergman

BERGMAN. Pristine screen image.

By Behn Cervantes

NO Hollywood scandal rocked the cinematic boat as much as Ingrid Bergman's desertion in 1949 of her husband Dr. Peter Lindstrom and their young daughter Pia. The world was shocked because the Academy Award-winning actress had an almost "saintly" image. They believed that her "radiance, strength and vitality" were in keeping with the admired characteristics of St. Joan of Arc.

Spectacle

Ingrid was remembered by many for her role in "Joan of Arc," a Technicolor extravaganza praised more for its spectacle than for its artistic merits. As usual Ms Bergman turned in a sympathetic performance that bolstered her pristine screen image. She was Sweden's greatest contribution to Hollywood since the enigmatic Greta Garbo reigned there. Ingrid's ethereal beauty was admired by suspense director Alfred Hitchcock, who put her in steamy love scenes with Cary Grant in "Notorious" and "Under Capricorn."

Stunning beauty

Ingrid was born in 1915 and was orphaned early in life. Relatives who raised her encouraged her to study at Stockholm's Dramatic Academy. There, her stunning beauty caught the attention of Sweden's film directors. After appearing in supporting roles, she won a plum part in "Intermezzo" in 1936.

David O. Selznick, the maverick Hollywood producer, contracted her to appear in the Hollywood version of that film opposite British import Leslie Howard. In 1940, she made her Broadway debut in "Liliom," by Ferenc Molnar, a play that was later turned into the successful Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel."

Ingrid's screen presence and outstanding beauty made her a screen favorite with a string of critically successful films highlighted by her Academy Award-winning performance in "Gaslight" opposite Charles Boyer. She also co-starred with Gary Cooper in "Saratoga Trunk," as well as with Gregory Peck in "Spellbound."

She was often written about as a quiet, home-loving and serious artist who wasn't a part of the glitzy Hollywood set. The reality was, she had tired of predictable Hollywood and became interested in the neo-realist film movement in Italy, especially the works of Roberto Rossellini. She offered him her services for an upcoming film, "Stromboli." On that volcanic island, they started their affair.

The extramarital liaison shocked her many fans. Religious organizations, women's clubs and even politicians universally assailed her for gross immorality. On the floor of the US Senate, she was condemned as "Hollywood's apostle of degradation" as well as a "free-love cultist." Remember, this was 1949, so the world was indeed shocked. Wasn't she St. Joan, after all?

Extended kissing scenes

Movie fans around the globe believed Bergman was a great actress, so her sexy portrayals were merely the products of her talent. In life, she was a no-nonsense housewife. Moral, too, or so they convinced themselves. Never mind if she had extended kissing scenes with Gary Cooper, Cary Grant, Gregory Peck and Leslie Howard, and stimulating scenes with all her leading men.

The fans refused to acknowledge the obviously sensual person on that big, wide screen. Wasn't she after all terribly convincing as the sexy Creole in "Saratoga Trunk?"

Wasn't the hysterical barmaid in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" really a tart? Wasn't she a mysterious woman of the world in both "Notorious" and "Under Capricorn?"

Wasn't the enigmatic Ilsa in "Casablanca" obviously a turn-on for both Humphrey Bogart and Paul Henreid? Decades after "Stromboli" it was revealed that Ingrid had had affairs with Gary Cooper and Gregory Peck. No wonder they "made love" so convincingly onscreen.

However, fans everywhere preferred to think differently of Ingrid so, when she had that infamous affair with Rossellini, she was universally condemned by a disappointed world.

She lived in Europe for many years and seemed destined for oblivion in Hollywood when, in 1956, she appeared in a successful French film by Jean Renoir, "Lena et Les Hommes," oddly translated into "Paris Does Strange Things."

That same year she starred in "Anastasia," a role that won her a second Academy Award. It was Hollywood's way of saying all was forgiven.

Celebrities let off steam

By Noelani Torre

AN outstanding face isn't the only thing that distinguishes celebrities from ordinary Janes and Joes, there's also the matter of an outstanding fortune—which the latter don't have.

Money

After all, if they do have it, then odds are that they're already celebrities, as celebrityhood and money often go hand in hand. In the words of Bill Murray: "When people say they want to be rich and famous, just try rich and see if that doesn't get most of it for you."

As we delve further into Boze Hadleigh's juicy collection of rich and famous quips, "Hollywood and Whine" (Citadel Press), we discover more and more quotes—about fame, money, and the unapologetically materialistic world that celebrities inhabit.

We get an earful about beliefs about money and happiness. For example: "Money does buy happiness," said comic Mel Brooks. " And I'm healthy already." Jean Seberg was of much the same opinion, but her thoughts had a different twist.

MADONNA. "Money makes you beautiful."

"Money does buy happiness," she said. "But happiness isn't everything."

Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton, however, disagreed. "My money has never brought me happiness," she confessed. "Not happiness that lasts . . . and the older I get, the more I realize it can't buy love, either. Men find money glamorous, but eventually it doesn't make them any kinder or more devoted."

Other uses

Some, like Humphrey Bogart, had other uses for money: "The only reason to have money is to tell any SOB in the world to go to hell," he said. And pop queen Madonna, who admitted that her "most annoying expenditure" was coloring her hair, declared: "Money makes you beautiful." (Or blonde, anyhow.)

With all this cash comes a highly-tuned acquisitiveness— and celebs' acquisitions range from jewels and houses to children and spouses. As columnist Joyce Haber put it: "Some in this town buy things or collect things. Others try to live very well: Still others try to buy or influence people. Tell me what you buy, and I'll tell you what you are. It's more true than with food; you are what you buy."

If so, what would our own Imelda Marcos be? She's the only Pinoy celebrity in this book, and this was her revelation: "I did not have 3,000 pairs of shoes-I had 1,060!" Right, as though it really made a difference. *(To be concluded)*

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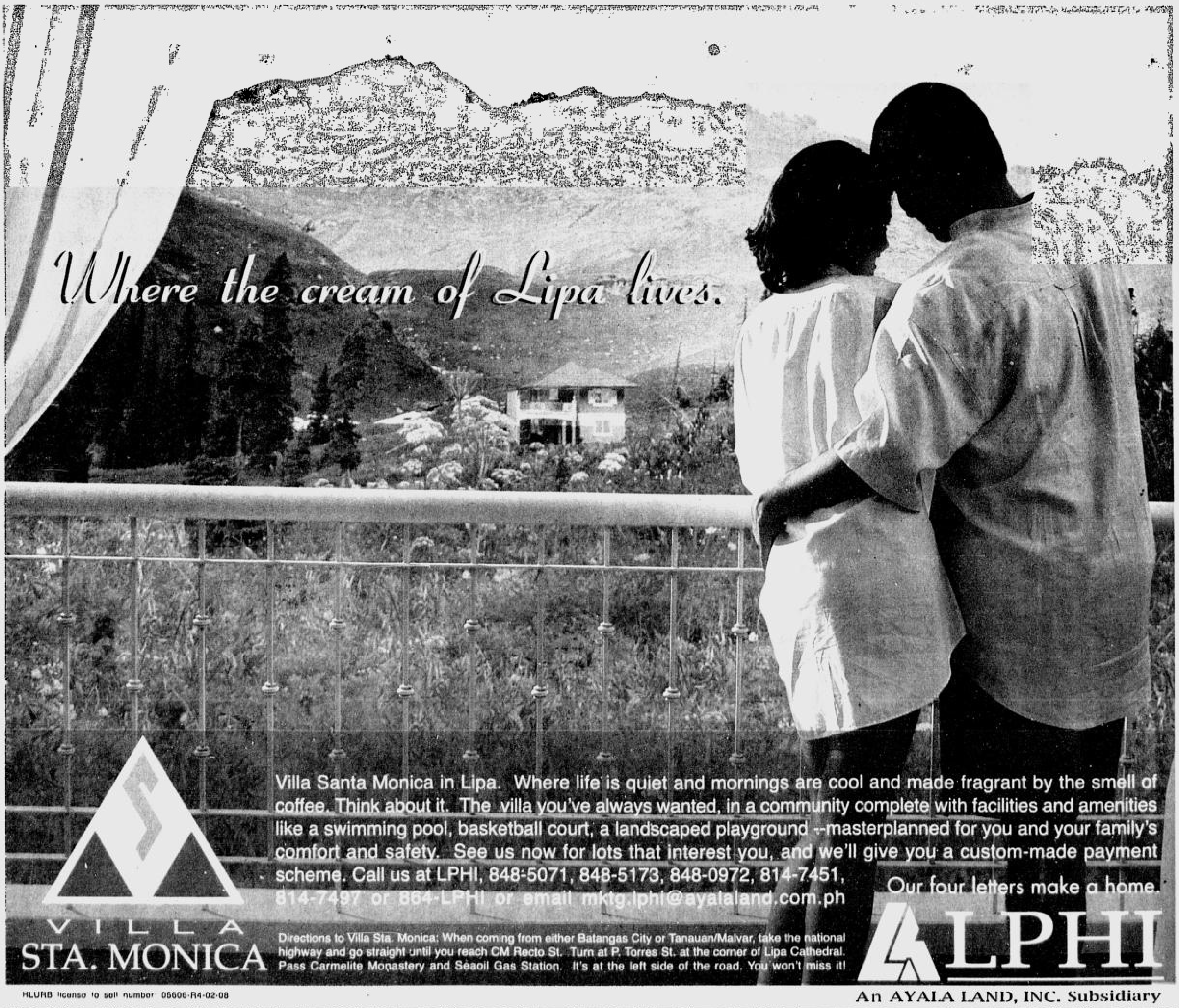

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2003 MTV Movie Awards nominees announced

MTV: Music Television has announced the nominees for the 2003 MTV Movie Awards:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" and "Spider-Man" top this year's list with five nominations each. In addition to the usual line-up of nomination categories, MTV has taken the forward-looking step of saluting the latest tool of movie making—artificial character generation.

Winners

The winners will be revealed at the 2003 MTV Movie Awards, which will be taped on May 31 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

The 2003 MTV Movie Awards will premiere on MTV Philippines (Channel 41) on June 14 at 2 p.m. and June 15 at 9 p.m.

Globe Gentxt presents the 2003 MTV Movie Awards and they're giving four lucky winners a chance to watch the event live in Los Angeles, USA! Also, catch the MTV and Globe Gentxt Cool Cinema Nights screenings at The Fort beginning May 9, featuring some nominated movies.

This year's awards will be seen in 166 countries and territories via 84 channels, and in 17 languages in over 380 million households.

The nominations for the 2003 MTV Movie Awards:

Best Movie

- "8 Mile" (Universal)
- "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" (New Line)
- "Spider-Man" (Sony)
- "Barbershop" (MGM)
- "The Ring" (DreamWorks SKG)

Best Male Performance

- Eminem ("8 Mile"—Universal)
- Vin Diesel ("XXX"—Sony)
- Leonardo DiCaprio ("Catch Me If You Can"—DreamWorks SKG)
- Tobey Maguire ("Spider-Man"—Sony)
- Viggo Mortensen ("The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers"—New Line)

DICAPRIO. Nominated for his performance in "Catch Me If You Can."

Best Female Performance

- Reese Witherspoon—"Sweet Home Alabama" (Touchstone)
- Kirsten Dunst—"Spider-Man" (Sony)
- Halle Berry—"Die Another Day" (MGM)
- Kate Hudson—"How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days" (Paramount)
- Queen Latifah—"Chicago" (Miramax)

Best Comedic Performance

- Mike Myers —"Austin Powers in Goldmember" (New Line)
- Will Ferrell—"Old School" (DreamWorks SKG)
- Cedric The Entertainer—"Barbershop" (MGM)
- Adam Sandler—"Mr. Deeds" (Sony)
- Johnny Knoxville—"Jackass: The Movie" (Paramount)

Best On-Screen Team

- Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn and Luke Wilson—"Old School" (DreamWorks SKG)
- Elijah Wood, Sean Astin and Gollum—"The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" (New Line)
- Kate Bosworth, Michelle Rodriguez and Sanoe Lake—"Blue Crush" (Universal)
- Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson—"Shanghai Knights" (Touchstone)
- Johnny Knoxville, Bam Margera, Steve-O and Chris Pontious—"Jackass: The Movie" (Paramount)

Best Villain

- Mike Myers (Goldmember)—"Austin Powers in Goldmember" (New Line)
- Willem Dafoe (Green Goblin)—"Spider-Man" (Sony)
- Colin Farrell (Bullseye)—"Daredevil" (20th Century Fox)
- Daveigh Chase (Samara Morgan)—"The Ring" (DreamWorks SKG)
- Daniel Day-Lewis (Bill the Butcher)—"Gangs of New York" (Miramax)

Breakthrough Male

- Eminem—"8 Mile" (Universal)
- Kieran Culkin—"Igby Goes Down" (United Artists)
- Ryan Reynolds—"National Lampoon's Van Wilder" (Artisan)
- Nick Cannon—"Drumline" (20th Century Fox)
- Derek Luke—"Antwone Fisher" (Fox Searchlight)

Breakthrough Female

- Nia Vardalos—"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" (IFC Films)
- Beyonce Knowles—"Austin Powers in Goldmember" (New Line)
- Jennifer Garner—"Daredevil" (20th Century Fox)
- Eve—"Barbershop" (MGM)
- Kate Bosworth—"Blue Crush" (Universal)
- Maggie Gyllenhaal—"Secretary" (Lions Gate)

Best Kiss

- Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst—"Spider-Man" (Sony)
- Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner—"Daredevil" (20th Century Fox)
- Nick Cannon and Zoë Saldana—"Drumline (20th Century Fox)
- Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz—"Gangs of New York" (Miramax)
- Adam Sandler and Emily Watson—"Punch-Drunk Love" (Sony)

Best Fight

- Yoda vs. Christopher Lee—"Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones" (20th Century Fox)
- Jet Li vs. the Ultimate Fighters—"Cradle 2 the Grave" (Warner Bros.)
- Johnny Knoxville vs. Butterbean—"Jackass: The Movie (Paramount)"
- Fann Wong vs. the Palace Guards—Shanghai Knights (Touchstone)"

Eastwood, von Trier . . .

From page I1

nominee—will be screening "The Moab Story/The Tulse Luper Suitcases—Part I." Interestingly, Greenaway's cast includes US actor-director Vincent Gallo—who is also in the Cannes competition with "Brown Bunny," a story about a motorbike racer who tries to forget love.

Asian directors

Russia's Alexander Sokurov, who also has three Cannes nominations under his belt, is back this year with "Father and Son." Among others being welcomed in the Cannes competition this year will be US actor-director Gus Van Sant, and two increasingly respected Asian directors, Kiyoshi Kurosawa from Japan and Lou Ye from China.

In all, the Palme d'Or list of contenders comprises films from 13 nations, five of them from host nation France.

But the glitzy festival counts much more than the race for the Palme d'Or.

The hundreds of out-of-competition screenings that take place in sideline showcases or in the bustling market, where deals are done, often contain nuggets that go on to big commercial success or establish the reputation of an up-and-coming director or actor. AFP

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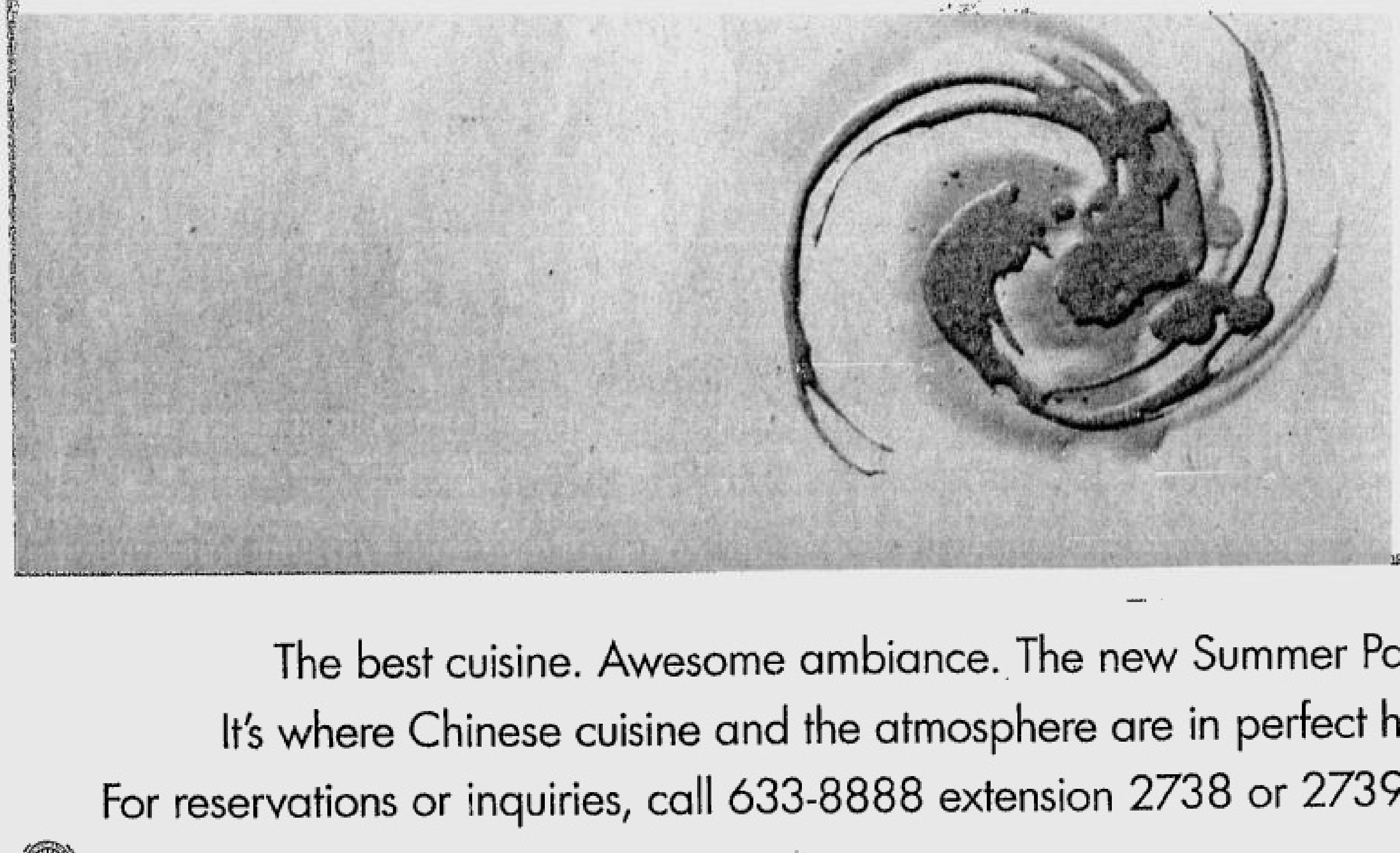

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KC Concepcion is good and ready

By Nestor U. Torre

KC has discovered that she has a real knack for singing and dancing.

FOR the past 18 years, show biz fans have seen KC Concepcion, the daughter of Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion, grow from a cute baby into a lovely, accomplished young woman.

Veritable princess

Being the only child of popular movie stars, KC struck some people as a veritable princess who lived a pampered private life. She may not have had an "official" show biz career as a performer, but she was constantly in the public eye.

Soon after she was born, her parents' "perfect" marriage crumbled, and KC experienced the hurt of growing up in a fatherless home. Her mother had a couple of serious relationships, but they weren't the same thing.

In some other "broken" families, this combination of wealth, popularity and emotional deprivation could have conspired to turn KC into a problem child. But, to her eternal credit, her mother Sharon tried to keep her daughter's life on an even keel, despite all the distractions and dangers lurking in her way.

Most daring move

Sharon's most daring move was to put her career on hold so that she and her new husband, Kiko Pangilinan, could go on a study sabbatical in the States, where they could firm up their sense of family with KC, and try to give her a kid brother or sister.

This "time out" from show biz must have helped KC gain the right perspective for her to ease into her teen years with fewer problems than usual. Kiko turned out to be a loving surrogate father, and she discovered that she had a real knack for singing and dancing.

CONCEPCION. Fat talent fees from commercial endorsements.

Musical theater

The world of musical theater beckoned to her, and she found herself feeling at home and welcome in it. It was still performing, but unlike her mother's more dazzling and headier show biz universe, theater was more focused on significant themes and a firmer work ethic, so KC was able to do what her mother did without being totally eclipsed by her.

Then came fat talent fees from commercial endorsements, and KC found herself financially solvent at an age when most other teens would still be dependent on a weekly allowance. Again, this could have gone to her head, but her folks made sure that she was made of sterner stuff.

Two-faced prospect

Now that she's 18, KC has the whole world in front of her—and this could also be a two-faced prospect. Are recording and TV-movie stardom in her plans? Happily, not yet. She's determined to first focus on her college studies, either here or abroad, and that will give her more time to mature some more—so that, when mainstream show biz stardom finally becomes her priority, she'll be good and ready for its many pressures and challenges.

Fervent wish

Sharon keeps saying that her fervent wish is for her daughter to avoid making the same mistakes that caused her so much pain, and her parents so much grief, in her own life. Of course, life is seldom so obliging, and offspring can be lovingly sheltered from the cruel world and from themselves only up to a point.

So, KC will probably have to make some of her own mistakes—but, at least, she can more readily recognize them for the clinkers they are, and learn from them with less attendant grief and pain. Congratulations, KC, and Sharon, too—and all the other people who have helped make KC Concepcion the fine, young woman she has become.

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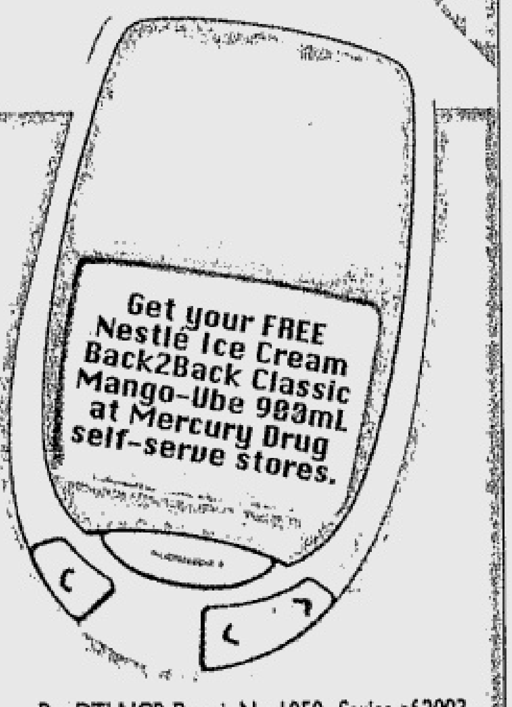
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SWITCHING CHANNELS

24 finalists compete in bikini championship in Boracay

By Edmund L. Sicam

RPN-9 will air "The Mossimo Bikini Summit (The 2003 Boracay Bikini Championship at Club Panoly Resort)" on May 25 as the featured special on "Sunday's Big Event."

The actual contest will be held on May 3 with TJ Manotoc, Angel Jacob and last year's winner, Carlo Maceda, now a contract star of Viva Films, as program hosts. Performing are Luke Mejares, the singing group Devotion and Viva Hot Babes Maui Taylor, Katya Santos, Gwen Garci and Jen Rosendahl.

Two weeks ago, the 24 finalists were presented to the press at the Astoria Plaza. Also watching were several construction workers who managed to get a good view of the contestants from a building that was being erected beside the Astoria!

The finalists are: In the male division, Mico Areglado, Siegfried Monserrat, KC Thadani, Adrian Zabala, Rodolfo Solis, Albert Guinto, Spencer Concepcion, Jerome Uy, Angel James Dee, Jonas Jason Baltasar, Ronald Brent Javier and Deone Dasallas.

In the female division, Dyan Acuesta, Joyce Andres, Mary Ann Mendoza, Fatima Mbengue, Elaine Gatdula, Chrischelle Magaspi, Angel Mendoza, Liza Camering, Kristine-Mari Arboleda, Bernadeth Mercado, Julia Duncan and Tessa MacDonald.

Among those who stood out during the presentation were Chrischelle Magaspi and Elaine Gatdula.

Chrischelle, 22, is a graduate of European Studies at the Ateneo de Manila University. Exuding a lot of confidence, the 5'7" finalist is well-travelled, having gone on a study tour of Europe and attended an internship program at the New York Asia Society.

She speaks French, Spanish and German. She's also into sports and has competed in a triathlon, which involved biking, swimming and a relay race.

Eventually she would like to be a doctor and get involved in public health. Her interest in medicine is understandable because both of her parents are physicians.

MAGASPI. World traveller.

GATDULA. Computer buff.

Elaine, 19, impressed the press with her simplicity and warm smile. She's a computer graduate of Holy Angel College in Angeles City and loves to surf the internet.

She has no boyfriend because "my parents are strict." However, they're supportive of their daughter's decision to join a beauty tilt.

Chrischelle has joined other beauty tilts before and won as Miss June in "MTB's" Calendar Girl contest.

The winners will get P50,000 cash, a trip to Thailand for two, a movie contract with Viva Films, P30,000 worth of gift certificates from Mossimo, and a two-year membership at Gold's Gym.

The gods must be angry

WRITERS of "Eat Bulaga" should brush up on their Greek mythology. Last Wednesday, one of the questions on the "Laban o Bawi" portion was "*Sino ang* Greek god *ng karagatan? Ang pangalan niya ay tulad ng isang planeta na malapit sa* Pluto." Helped by the planetary clue, contestant B answered "Neptune," which was accepted as the correct answer by Vic Sotto.

The gods on Olympus must be angry because Neptune was the wrong answer. Neptune is the Roman God of the seas. The Greek god of the seas is Poseidon.

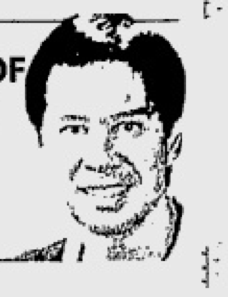
This is unfair to contestant A because she was eliminated and her opponent went on to compete in the finals. She eventually lost to the other finalist. In a contest where P1 million is at stake, the show's producer should take extra care in making sure that the answers are accurate.

What if the answer "Neptune" was not accepted, and assuming further that Contestant A did not know the answer, the results could have been different in the next question. Contestant A could have answered it correctly and proceeded to the finals. She could also have won against the other contestant and she could have had a chance at the P1 million. There are so many ifs had the wrong answer been nullified.

Incidentally, the winning contestant last Wednesday opted to take P80,000 rather than take a chance at winning the million-peso jackpot. As it turned out, she placed the number 1 in the right slot and could have been an instant millionaire. Tough luck! Not so for another female contestant last Tuesday. She opted to stick to her guns till the very end and won a cool million.

Alavar revisited

WORD OF MOUTH



Sandy Daza

MOST Filipino restaurants abroad cater to hungry Filipinos. Nothing wrong with that except that we miss out on getting our cuisine accepted by the international market. I believe that the only factors separating us from acceptance is creativity and presentation.

Main dish

Speaking of presentation, I just had dinner in a friend's house and her daughter, Canadian chef Isabel Cuyugan, prepared a main dish of boneless ox tail wrapped in "*sinsal*" (same pork string wrap they use in *kikiam*).

This is one way of presenting our *kare-kare*, for example. With a nice sauce on top or on the side, this would make a super presentation. Anyway, Isabel will be coming to Manila in July to cook for private parties. *Abangan*!

Even in our own country, there are only a few Pilipino restaurants that attract foreigners. But, in some places, their exotic look or presentation of dishes become the main attraction.

One such place is Joseph and Jaymarks at the Astrodome in Pasay. I used to bring my Hawaiian friends over there and they loved it.

Native restaurant

Recently, I went back to a native restaurant we used to go to in Cebu. I first came across Alavar in Cebu when we were there for the early shooting competitions of the PPSA, and as visitors of Efren Sarmiento. I learned that this place started in Zamboanga and that it specialized in Curacha, the coconut crabs that are plentiful in the area. I was so impressed with the food that everytime I go to Cebu, I make it a point to drop by.

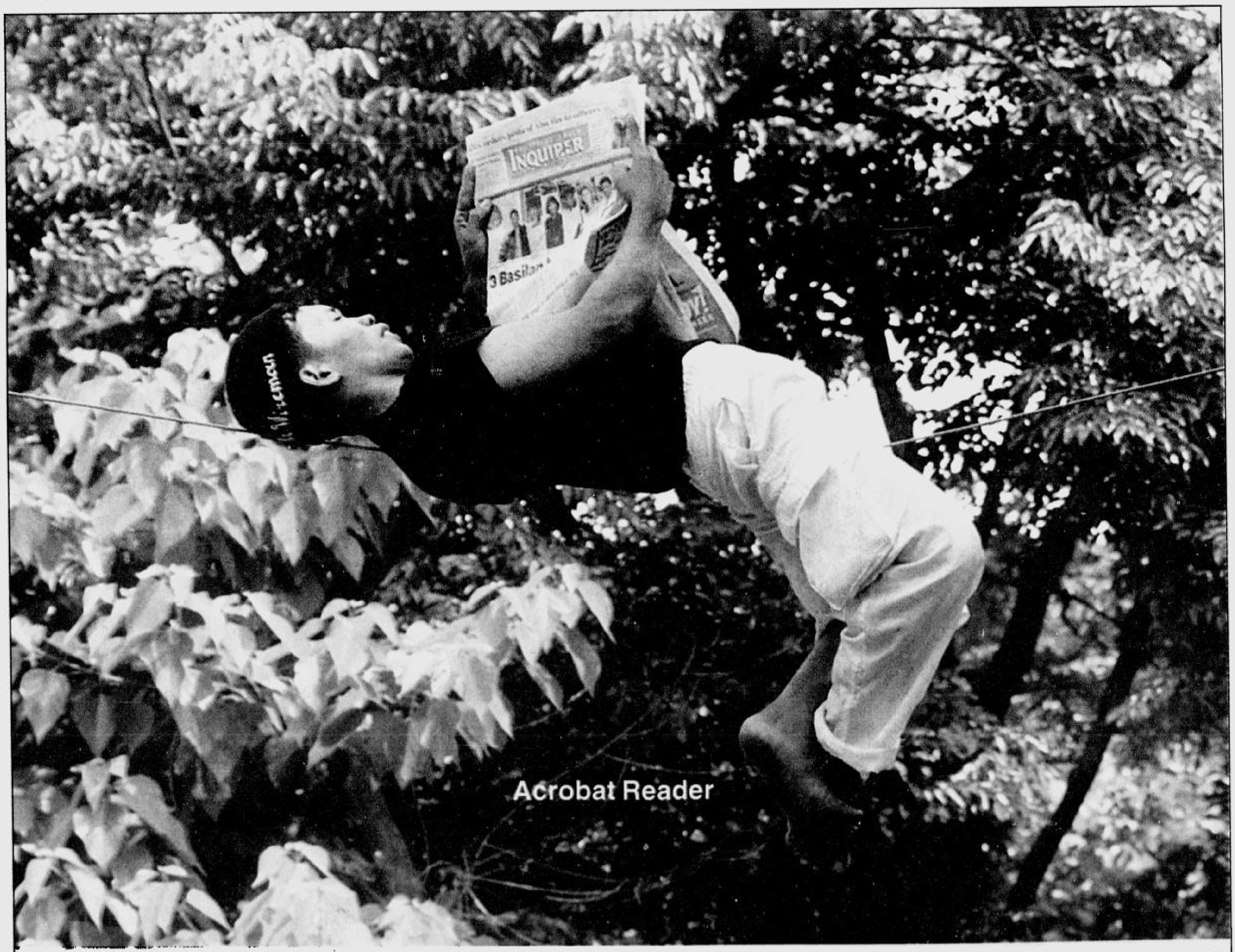
Well, driving along Timog ave. in Quezon City one day, I saw that a branch had just opened, so I went in. We were given a plate of sliced green mangoes with Alavar *bagoong*. That has to be one of the best-tasting *bagoong* I have ever tried, with its nice touch of sweetness and coconut taste. Superb! We then went on to order Curacha with Alavar sauce, *Bihod* with *suka* and *sili*, *Pinakbet* Chavacano style, seafood rice and *bagoong* rice.

Curacha

The *bagoong* rice was nothing great. The seafood rice was good. But what I really enjoyed was the Curacha with Alavar sauce. This sauce has a *matamis na bao* type of flavor, and is perfect with any of their seafoods.

If you find it too complicated to make *himay* the crab, you can ask one of the servers to do it for you. The *bihod* or fish eggs were deep fried or *adobo*, so good with native vinegar and crushed *sili*. The Chavacano *pinakbet* was slightly different from the Ilocos version, but also delicious. I suggest you take home a bottle of the *bagoong*. Happy eating!

Alavar seafood grille and restaurant is located at 39 Scout Ybardolaza st., near Timog ave., QC. Tel. nos. are 926-5641, 926-5636. In Zamboanga, Alavar is at 173 Don Alfaro st., Tetuan, tel. no. 991-2483.



For the past 9 years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has topped the Asia Research Organization Readership Survey as the No.1 broadsheet in the country. This year, we've done it again, thanks to the faith of our readers, advertisers, dealers, and partners who remain confident in our commitment to public service. We're glad that whatever your reading style, you have made us a part of your life.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

American singer comes up with Tagalog album

By Noelani Torre

LARRY Marshall, a former US Marine with degrees in Computer Science and Business Administration, is the archetypal Yank (blond hair, blue eyes, etc.)—and, with the recent release of his all-Filipino album, the country's newest balladeer.

Slogan

Marshall is no Filipino, but he professes to have the heart of one, as expressed by his slogan *"KKPP—Katawang Kano, Pusong Pinoy."*

It was his stint in the Marines that introduced him to Filipinos via a Pinoy community in Okinawa, where he was stationed. Marshall decided to study Tagalog—seriously, mind you—which he has mastered so well that he sounds like a born and bred Pinoy in his album, "Ikaw ang Dahilan" (Viva Records).

MARSHALL. Let's face it, it's flattering to hear an American singing our songs—for a change!

This album is far from Marshall's first foray into music, however. He already has one album under his belt, also in Tagalog, which was released last year in the States by KKPP Productions. It was after this that he caught the attention of Viva, and he decided to try his luck in the Philippines.

Extensive background

His background in music is also quite extensive. He majored in voice and minored in piano in college, and took part in various off-Broadway musicals such as "My Fair Lady" and "Annie Get Your Gun."

But it wasn't until after his stint with the Marines, while working with a Los Angeles karaoke company, that he got interested in Filipino music.

This time, it was the numerous Pinoys working in the same company who kindled the flames. Interestingly enough, most of them were Visayans, which is why Marshall has a surprising Bisaya accent that is sometimes apparent in his singing!

He had built up a solid reputation for himself in Filipino communities in the States, where he was constantly booked for parties and concerts. He has also opened for homegrown stars, like Jose Mari Chan, Jun Polistico, Carol Banawa, Haji Alejandro, Jocelyn Enriquez, and Nonoy Zuniga.

It is the novelty Marshall presents that is his main attraction to Filipino audiences. Pinoy-sounding Americans don't exactly grow on trees, after all, and Marshall is particularly adept at the language. He's not a bad singer, either, though the songs in his album are more pleasant than impressive.

Veteran songwriters

The CD contains 12 songs, all of them in Filipino, some from the pens of veteran songwriters Vehnee Saturno and Jimmy Borja. Mico Alvero, Jun Morala and Mitch Morala also lent their writing and composing talents to the compilation.

The opening track, "Hanggang Ngayo'y Ikaw Pa Rin," is representative of the rest of the album. With lyrics and music by Borja, it is the sort of love song that we expect from our balladeers—slow, a little melancholic, and smoothly sung.

The track "Ikaw Ang Dahilan" is hardly any different. Also written by Borja, it is equally laid-back and pleasant-sounding, if a little soporific. This song may prove to be familiar to some people, as it has been enjoying some airplay on a number of radio stations.

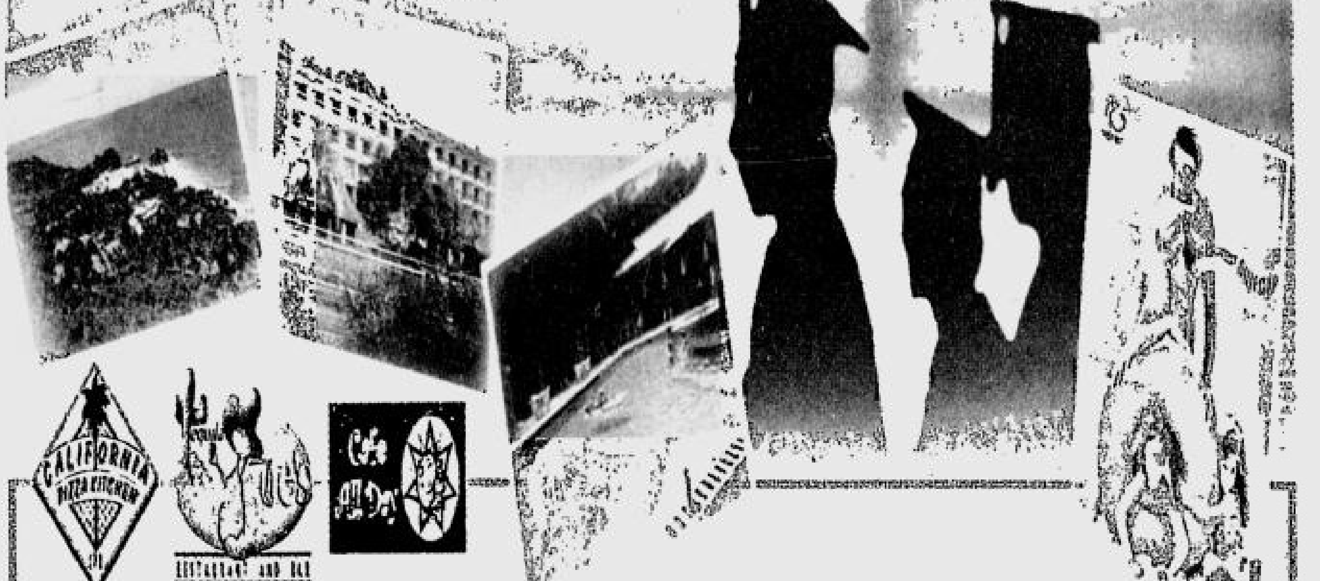
Another song that might be familiar is "Sana," which Jun Morala penned to the tune of the Seals & Croft original "My Fair Share." And it is the tune that makes it stand out from the rest.

More memorable songs

We have no particular favorites in this album, nor do we have any particular dislikes. The more memorable songs, however, would be Vehnee Saturno's "Ikaw Pa Rin Ang Mahal" and "Huwag Mong Sasabihin," which are more upbeat, though they're also typical love songs.

"Kausapin Mo Siya," written by Mico Alvero, is also worth noting as it is a religious

AMERICAN/ J4



Mechanics:

1) The raffle draw is open to all diners of California Pizza Kitchen, Tequila Joe's & Café All Day outlets from March 15 to April 27, 2003. Every P500 worth of food & beverage consumed entitles the diner to a raffle coupon. Participant must fill out the stub with his name, address and telephone number and affix his/her signature.

2) Entries must be dropped in drop boxes located at all CPK, TJ's & Café All Day outlets. Deadline for submission is 11:59pm on April 27, 2003.

3) Only entries with completely filled up raffle coupons will be valid.

4) The raffle draw will be held on April 30, 2003 at 4:00pm at GRMG Corporate Office located at the, 22/F Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City in the presence of a DTI representative. The following winners will be drawn:

- One (1) grand prizewinner to win a trip for 4 to Boracay with 3 days & 2 nights accommodation at Club Panoly Beach Resort in Boracay care of Asian Spirit
- Three (3) second place winners, each to win P2,000 worth of gift certificates from California Pizza Kitchen
- Three (3) third place winners, each to win P1,000 worth of gift certificates from Tequila Joe's
- Three (3) fourth place winners, each to win P500 worth of gift certificates from Café All Day

5) Grand prize is valid one year from issuance while the gift certificates are valid until fully consumed.

6) Winners will be notified by registered mail. Participant can win only once. In the event a winner is drawn more than once, the prize of higher values shall be awarded to him/her. GRMG shall shoulder the twenty percent tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.

7) Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash. Travel-related expenses are to be shouldered by the winner.

8) Employees of CPK, TJ's, Café All Day and Global Restaurant Management Group (GRMG) and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified to join.

9) For GMA winners, prizes may be claimed at the GRMG Corporate office from Monday - Friday, 10am-5pm. For Cebu winners, prizes may be claimed at the Tequila Joe's Ayala Center Cebu branch from Monday - Saturday, 11am-5pm. Winners must present received notification letter and valid ID.

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Proper
Honest and upright.

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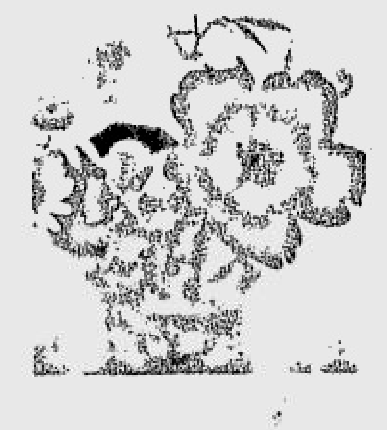
Having the power to produce plentifully.

Progressive
Interested in new ideas; moving forward.

Prosperous
Strong and healthy in growth.

Proven
Shows the genuineness after a trial or test.

Friends
A group of people who show kindly interest and goodwill;
helpful; bringing comfort and cheer.



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Jackie Aquino gets involved in kiddie playschool

By Edmund L. Sicam

AFTER a short hiatus from the public eye, Jackie Aquino is back, having finished a movie where she plays a supporting role to cousin Kris Aquino. She has two more movies coming up, a comedy and a horror flick. So what has she been doing all this time, away from the limelight?

Domestic concerns

Well, she got married in 1998, got pregnant in 1999 and gave birth to a baby girl named Andrea Martina in 2000. She busied herself with domestic concerns until her baby turned a year old. In November 2001, Jackie was appointed to the MTRCB as a board member, around the same time that board member Nida Blanca was murdered.

Recently, she was given additional responsibilities when she was named MTRCB vice chairman. The part-time job is ideal for Jackie, because it enables her to still spend time with her daughter.

As evidenced by her obvious devotion to Andrea, Jackie has always had a passion for children. She recalls that all her television shows in the past were child-oriented : "Tic-Tac-Boom" with Charlon Davao, "Kahit Munti, Sari-sari" with then child star Camille Prats and Lou Veloso, and "Campus Break," a game show for children with Danny Javier. But that's as far as she went in working with children.

All of a sudden, the opportunity to fulfill her passion presented itself. A friend of Jackie's sister had obtained the rights to set up a Gymboree franchise in the Philippines, and she needed a partner.

"Ann Tan was introduced to me on Jan. 5, 2002. We went to the States to train and we really hit it off!" Jackie says of her partner. After their training in the US, they came back to the Philippines and found the ideal space at Power Plant Mall in Makati. They started construction, and rigorously trained people to work with them to strictly follow the curriculum drawn up by Gymboree USA. They finally opened shop last Aug. 8.

AQUINO. Passion for children.

JACKIE (right) blows bubbles to the delight of young wards at Gymboree.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Interactive

"This is a parent-child interactive play and music program, so the parents are there with the children. They have to be there for the classes," explains Jackie, "We're non-competitive. They can do whatever you want to do, we don't grade them." Jackie, who is Program and PR Director, and play teacher as well, says that their program focuses not only on motor skills, but also on cognitive and social skills as well. Gymboree caters only to the 0-4 year old set. It has four play teachers (including Jackie) and three music teachers.

Jackie's husband, Mark Gavino, an interior design consultant, is very supportive of everything she does, including her decision to resume her show biz career.

Never in her wildest dreams did Jackie think she would be an actress. Even if her father, former senator and now Makati congressman Butz Aquino was an actor on stage and the big screen, Jackie always shied away from that world.

However, in 1987, a producer needed a leading lady for Roderick Paulate, and offered the role to her.

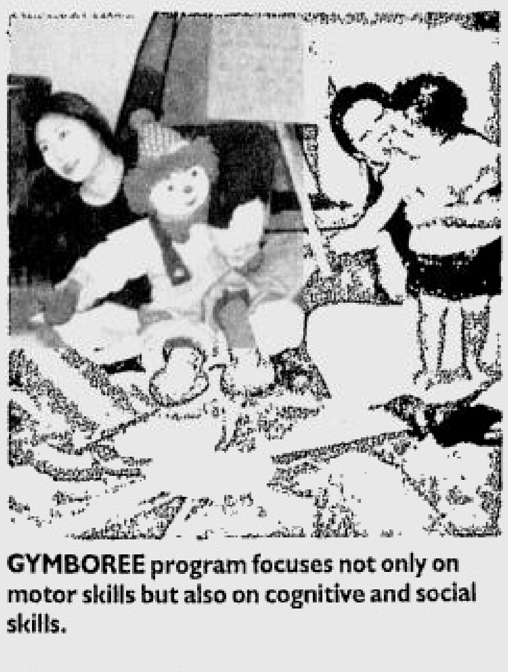
"I said, 'No way!" relates Jackie. She says she just couldn't imagine herself as an actress. But the producer was insistent, so Jackie consulted her mother, who told her, "Why don't you say yes?"

But Jackie was not yet convinced. She approached her father for advice. His answer: "OK, you can take an indefinite leave from the Senate." "And I never went back!" says Jackie with a smile.

Bold movies

Jackie recalls that she was also offered roles in bold movies, but she turned them down to protect her family. When she turned down the offers, some people accused her of not being serious about her acting career, and that offended her. "When I work, I'm serious!"

But she has no regrets. She is exactly where she wants to be right now. "I'm really fulfilled as a mother and I don't think any role or amount of money will compare to being a mother and having a baby," declares Jackie Aquino, actress, teacher, wife and mother.



GYMBOREE program focuses not only on motor skills but also on cognitive and social skills.

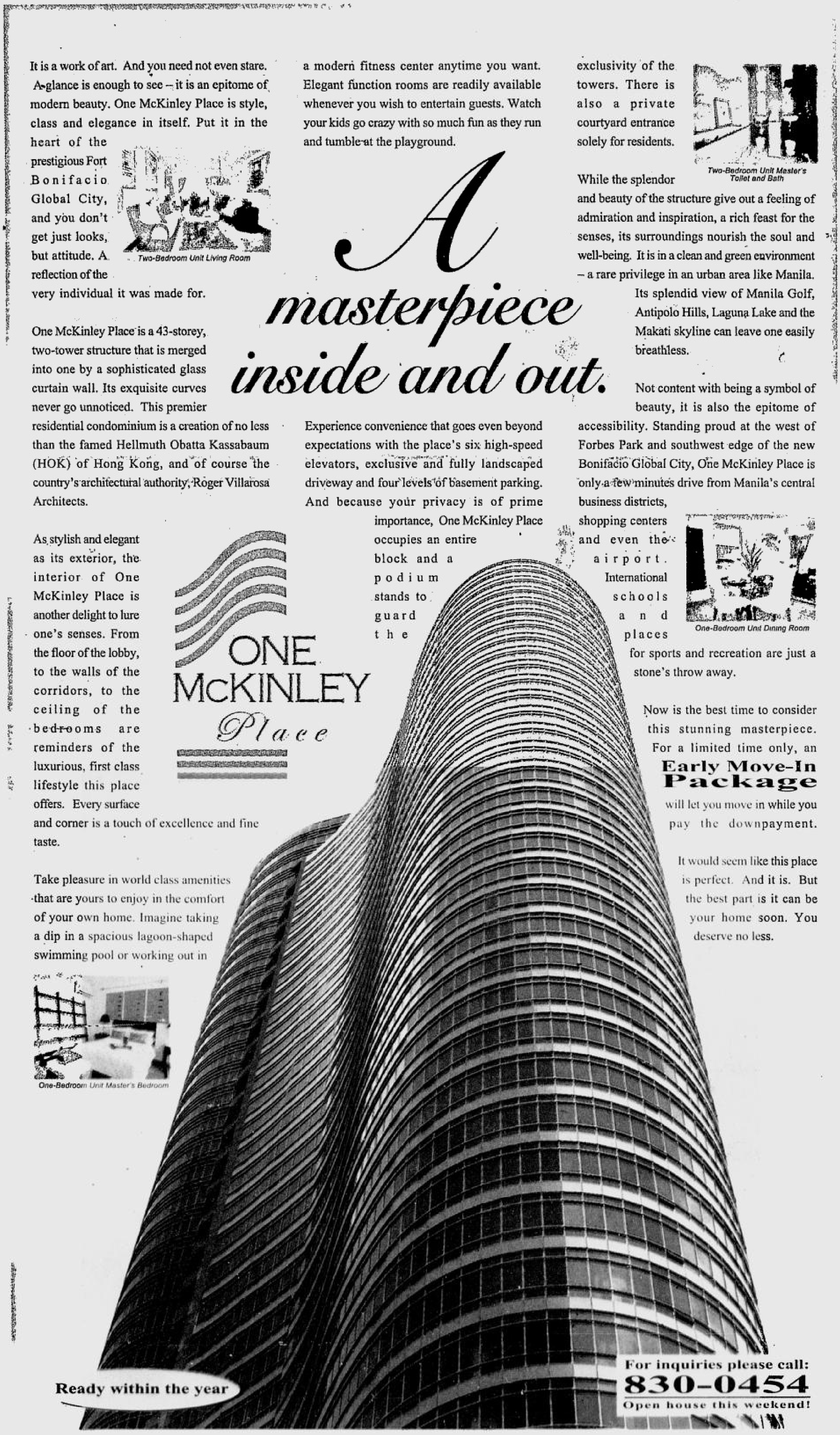
American . . .

From page J3

song, and thus different from the others.

You won't find it hard to listen to Larry Marshall's "Ikaw ang Dahilan." It has been smoothly put together and arranged, and it is quite agreeable. There is nothing in this album that is offensive or out of sync. However, there isn't much that marks it as different, either, especially when compared to the dozens of similar collections that abound in the market.

Marshall has a good voice, but good singers are hardly unheard of in this country. Still, he does have an edge over others: the plain truth is, we find it interesting— and flattering—to hear an American singing our songs—for a change!



A masterpiece inside and out.

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Two-Bedroom Unit Living Room

One McKinley Place is a 43-storey, two-tower structure that is merged into one by a sophisticated glass curtain wall. Its exquisite curves never go unnoticed. This premier residential condominium is a creation of no less than the famed Hellmuth Obatta Kassabaum (HOK) of Hong Kong, and of course the country's architectural authority, Roger Villarosa Architects.

As stylish and elegant as its exterior, the interior of One McKinley Place is another delight to lure one's senses. From the floor of the lobby, to the walls of the corridors, to the ceiling of the bedrooms are reminders of the luxurious, first class lifestyle this place offers. Every surface and corner is a touch of excellence and fine taste.

Take pleasure in world class amenities that are yours to enjoy in the comfort of your own home. Imagine taking a dip in a spacious lagoon-shaped swimming pool or working out in a modern fitness center anytime you want. Elegant function rooms are readily available whenever you wish to entertain guests. Watch your kids go crazy with so much fun as they run and tumble at the playground.

One-Bedroom Unit Master's Bedroom

Experience convenience that goes even beyond expectations with the place's six high-speed elevators, exclusive and fully landscaped driveway and four levels of basement parking. And because your privacy is of prime importance, One McKinley Place occupies an entire block and a podium stands to guard the exclusivity of the towers. There is also a private courtyard entrance solely for residents.

Two-Bedroom Unit Master's Toilet and Bath

While the splendor and beauty of the structure give out a feeling of admiration and inspiration, a rich feast for the senses, its surroundings nourish the soul and well-being. It is in a clean and green environment – a rare privilege in an urban area like Manila. Its splendid view of Manila Golf, Antipolo Hills, Laguna Lake and the Makati skyline can leave one easily breathless.

Not content with being a symbol of beauty, it is also the epitome of accessibility. Standing proud at the west of Forbes Park and southwest edge of the new Bonifacio Global City, One McKinley Place is only a few minutes drive from Manila's central business districts, shopping centers and even the airport. International schools and places for sports and recreation are just a stone's throw away.

One-Bedroom Unit Dining Room

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SATURDAY Special

Douglas clan makes home movie

By Arthur Spiegelman

LOS ANGELES—They may be father and son and Hollywood royalty to boot but they trade quips like a pair of Borscht Belt comedians, and memories like best friends.

Three-generational drama

Because he is older—86—and his knees are hurting, Kirk Douglas gets to lie on the hotel bed while his son Michael, 58, gets the uncomfortable bedroom chair as the two give an interview on the first film they have appeared in together, a three-generational drama called "It Runs in the Family." "See what happens when you do your own stunts," Michael tells his father in a mock effort to comfort him.

"The doctor who was examining me said, 'Do you do your own stunts?' and I said, 'Yes' and he said, 'I can see that,'" Kirk replies. "It could be worse." "Yes," Michael says, "It could have been worse" and then laughs a bit nervously, perhaps thinking of the stroke his father suffered in 1996 that left him with slurred speech and a depression so deep that he once stuck a gun in his mouth before deciding against suicide.

Different story

But Kirk, who spent years overcoming his stroke to successfully return to acting, interjects with a different story. He recalls a 1991 helicopter crash he was in that resulted in the deaths of two young men, including one 18-year-old who was about to leave school.

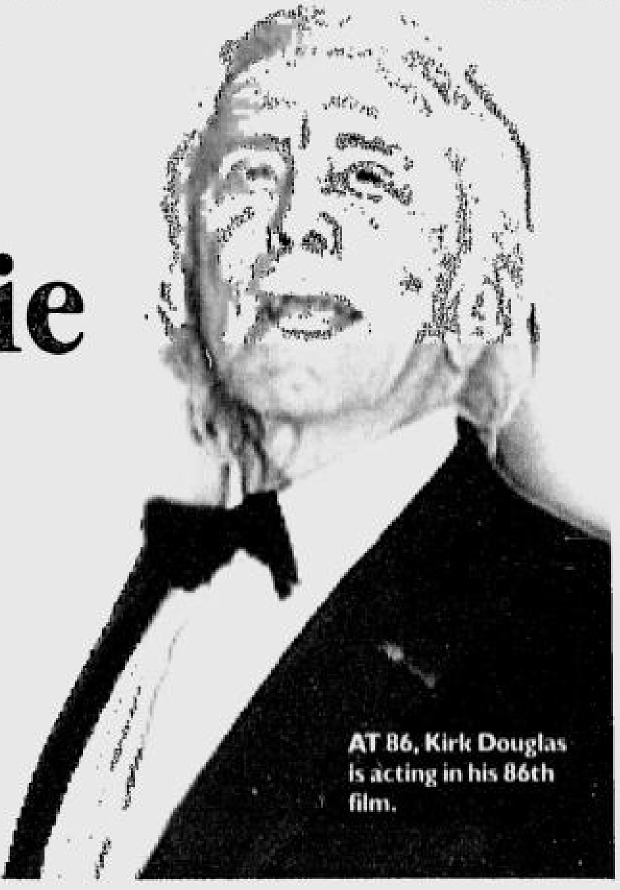
"And that's what started you on your spiritual quest?" Michael asks his dad who replies, "What's that?"

"Don't you speak English?" Michael responds, not missing a beat.

At that point, the pair is asked what it was like to work together and Michael is at no loss for words: "He's a pain in the ass and I know his line; he will say he is difficult." To which Kirk answers with a story, "Burt Lancaster once introduced me by saying, 'Kirk Douglas is the first to admit he is difficult to work with and I will be the second.'"

He adds, "Michael (who produced the movie) is a tough guy to work for.

DOUGLAS/ K2


AT 86, Kirk Douglas is acting in his 86th film.

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Two international festivals interested in showcasing Filipino film artistry

LINO Brocka and his films were feted in Europe.

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR some years now, Filipino filmmakers and their movies have done well in international festivals.

Gerry de Leon was honored as an Asian master of the cinema with a retrospective of his films, Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal were feted in Europe, and Marilou Diaz-Abaya has a strong and avid following in Japan.

Programmer

Now comes news that two more filmfests are interested in showcasing Filipino film artistry this year.

We had the pleasure of meeting Hannah Fisher, programmer of The World Film Festival in Montreal, Canada, when she was in town recently to view possible entries to her festival's 2003 edition.

At a lunch tendered by the Film Development Council of the Philippines' chairperson, Laurice Guillen Feleo and also attended by Behn Cervantes, Hannah shared these notes on the Montreal festival:

First, some good news for local filmmakers. She said she had screened a number of new Filipino movies and found them quite interesting.

Even better, she said that four of them had a good chance of being officially invited to join Montreal 2003, which unreels from Aug. 27 to Sept. 7.

Full-length features

Other filmmakers have until June 25 (for short films) and July 25 (for full-length features) to submit their registration forms for possible consideration.

The Montreal filmfest's goals are to encourage cultural diversity and understanding between nations, to foster the art of cinematography of all the continents by stimulating the development of quality cinema, to promote authors and innovative cinema, to discover and encourage new talents, and to promote meetings between cinema professionals from around the world.

The festival's competitive sections are its World Competition, First Films World Competition, Competitions of the Continents, and Documentaries.

Oberhausen filmfest

Meanwhile, the 2003 International Short Film Festival unreels at Oberhausen in Germany from May 1 to 6.

A remarkable number of less prominent filmmaking countries are represented in the 2003 filmfest, including Egypt, Albania, Peru and Kazakhstan.

There will also be a German competition, participated in by 30 short films selected from more than 1,000 submissions. And a Children and Youth Film Competition, the content of which is gleaned from the International and German Competitions.

Oberhausen presents 37 films for various age groups, from five to 16. This year, there is a particularly large number of movies suitable for teenagers. The narrative film format predominates in this group.

Special programs

Special programs focus on various themes—the ways people deal with migration and uprooting, globalized economic policy, film as a tool for surveying one's own territory, the Middle East, South America, and the body as the seat of identity.

Filmmakers whose works will be highlighted include video artists Marina Grzinic and Aina Smid, Argentinian artist Claudio Caldani and Yugoslavian Dusan Makavejev.

And there will be a Film Market with 15 screening booths. Almost 5,000 current film titles are available for screening by interested parties.

THEY WRITE THE SCRIPTS

The long wait is over for Senedy Que

By Rica Arevalo

WHEN Senedy H. Que was five years old, he loved going to the only movie house in Siasi, Sulu. There was a loudspeaker outside the old theater. He would hide behind his brothers so he could sneak in for free, because his parents would not give him money to watch movies. If he could not get in, he would stay outside and listen to the movie, imagining the scenes in his mind.

Awards

Recently, he won screenwriting awards with his "Mga Munting Tinig" co-writers Gil Portes and Adolf Alix Jr. at the 2003 Palm Beach International Film Festival and the Star Awards for Movies.

Que, 36, is not a "new" writer. He started writing for television 15 years ago with shows like "Not So Late Night with Edu," and "Mother Studio Presents." It took him 10 years to get a film writing assignment (Lupita A. Kashiwahara's "Babae") and another five years before "Mga Munting Tinig" surfaced.

Script

Sometime in March 2002, Portes approached Que with an original script written by Adolf Alix Jr. He shares, "We brainstormed and came up with a revised screenplay for 'Mga Munting Tinig.' A few characters were added, the tone shifted from heavy to light drama with comic moments, and the situations were updated to reflect the current sorry state of Philippine education, especially in public schools."

QUE. Has been fortunate to have worked with good directors.

At Toronto's world premiere of "Mga Munting Tinig," Que was moved to tears when he saw for himself how the international audience laughed and cried while watching the film. "It proved how universal films are, no matter their theme or country of origin. That was the most rewarding experience I ever had," he exclaims.

He adds, "I have been fortunate to have worked with the likes of directors Kashiwahara and Portes, who believe in the 'sanctity' of the written word. A lot of time and effort are given to pre-production, including many revisions of the screenplay. But, once production begins, you are assured that the final draft of your screenplay is in good hands, and the script remains intact."

Under contract

At the moment, Que is under contract with ABS-CBN. His regular TV shows are "Game KNB?" and "Sharon." What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a writer tied up with one network?

"The advantages include having a regular source of income, a higher fee in exchange for the exclusivity of your talent and services, and protection against unemployment (considering the state of the movie industry now, this is a major advantage).

"The disadvantage would have to be missing out on some worthy projects. Since you are under contract, you cannot accept anything offered by other networks, and there is a limited number of directors you can work with. You are also confined to the taste and work rules of your superiors in your network."

He urges aspiring and even "old" writers: "Dreams work only when you work for your dreams."

Douglas

From page K1

He doesn't pay much. You have to love the script. . ."

Michael turns serious about "It Runs in The Family," a drama about members of a prominent New York family who seem successful on the surface but are coming apart at the seams. At the heart of the story is an estrangement between father and son that transforms into an unexpected bonding.

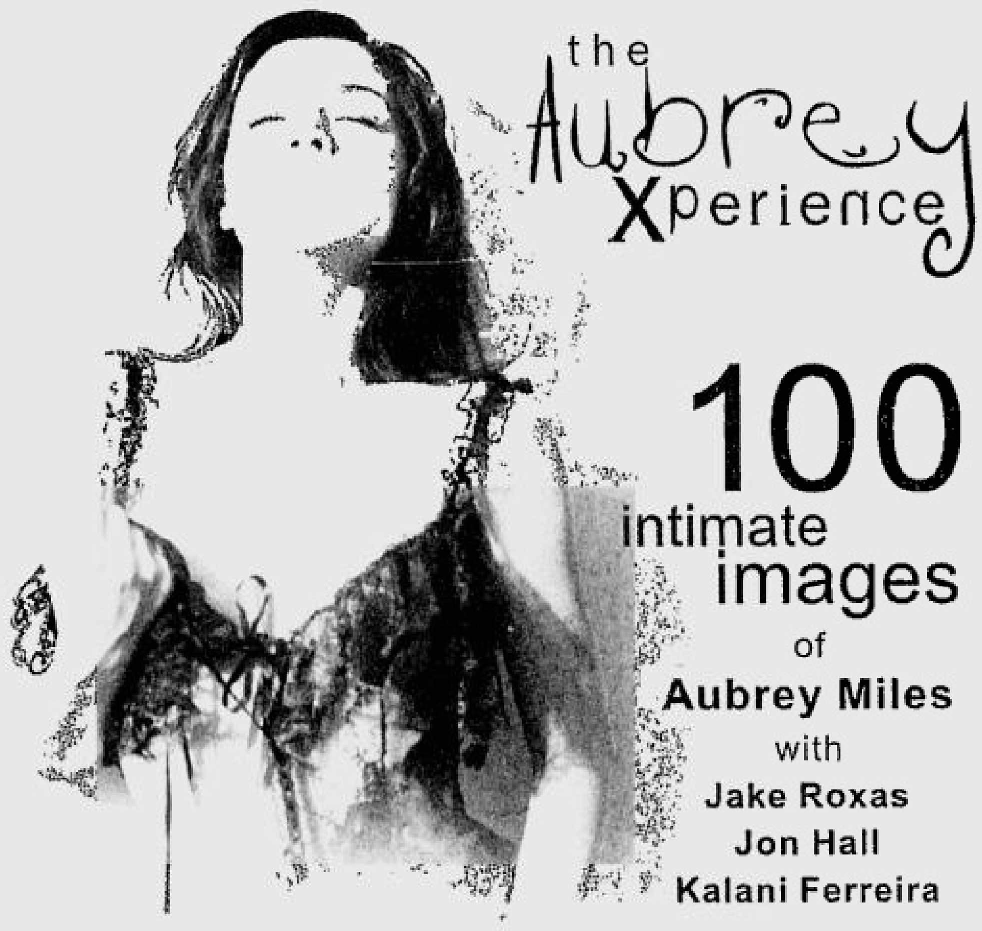
Homework

"The biggest joy was watching the amount of homework that dad did on this, his 86th movie—the amount of analyzing and looking at scenes, coming up with new ideas that are insightful and stimulating," he says.

"I learned a lot from dad. He always said a good actor knows how to listen. One of the joys of acting with dad is the effortless quality of being there that he brings. He makes things so believable."

Kirk is moved: "That's nice for an ac-

DOUGLAS/ K3



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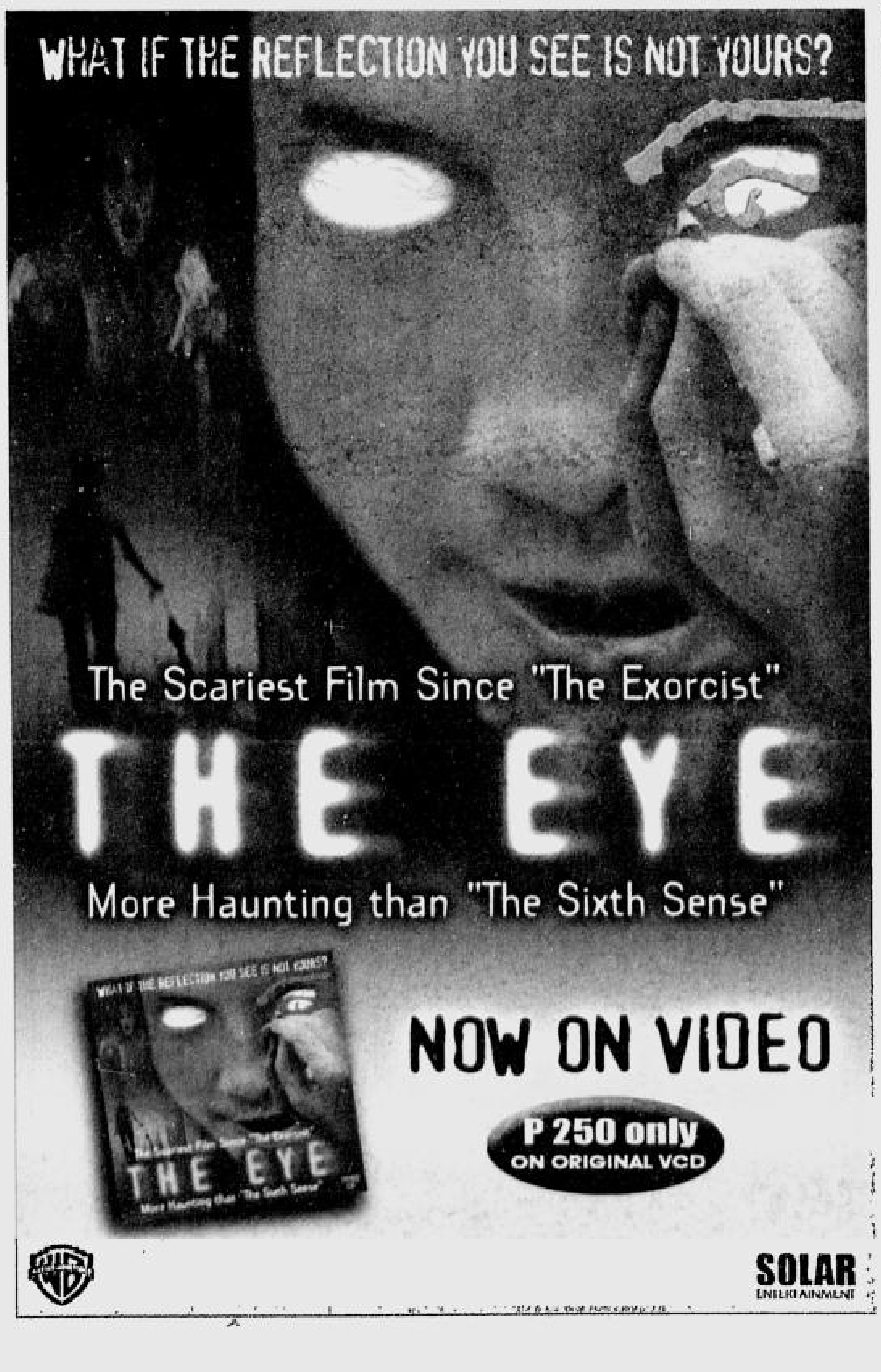
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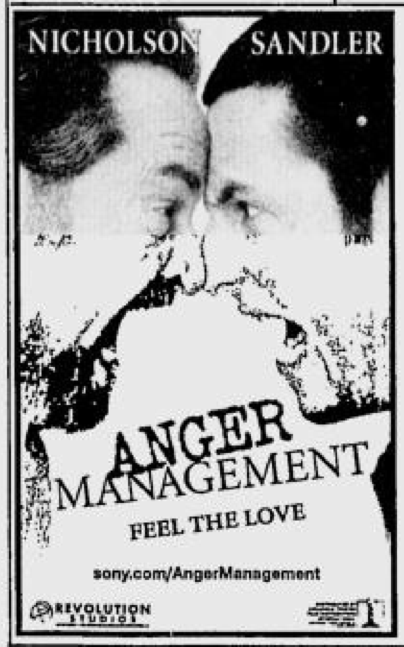

Adam Sandler, Jack Nicholson offer non-stop laughs in fun, new comedy

In the No. 1 comedy in America, Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson star together for the first time as patient and therapist -- though at times it's hard to tell which one is which!

After a misunderstanding aboard an airplane, mild-mannered Dave Buznik (Sandler) is ordered to attend anger management sessions run by outrageous psychiatrist Dr. Buddy Rydell (Nicholson).

Tortured by Buddy's wacky and abrasive confrontational methods, Dave must decide whether to crawl back into his shell or stand up for himself, and keep his girl (Marisa Tomei) along the way.

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In this epic tale of revenge based upon the play of William Shakespeare, Anthony Hopkins stars as Titus Andronicus, the Roman general who sows the seeds of vengeance when he executes the son of the enemy Queen, played by Jessica Lange. The repercussions of his action are revealed when the vindictive woman becomes the new wife of the Roman Emperor.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

SKYFILMS NOKIA

Douglas clan makes home movie

From page K2

MICHAEL Douglas thinks the world of his father.

tor who won two Academy Awards to say. I didn't realize I was so good." "You're wonderful," the son says.

Kirk returns the compliment: "I thought Michael was a good actor, the first scene I played with him. He was better than I thought he was and I thought he was very good. You know he played Gordon Gekko in "Wall Street" (a film for which he won an Oscar for best actor) and was so convincing that he made people believe greed was good."

Besides Kirk and Michael, the film stars Kirk's ex-wife, Diana Douglas, who is also Michael's mother, Michael's son Cameron and a young actor named Rory Culkin, who hails from an unrelated show business family.

Family photos

The credits also list Joel Douglas, Michael's brother, as associate producer and the family photos on display in several key scenes are straight out of the Douglas family album.

Michael says, "The big joy and surprise was Cameron. Initially we were concerned and nervous about whether he could act but once we saw what Cameron could do, we had a ball. We could relax and be happy."

In fact, Cameron comes close to stealing the movie—hamming it up with three of the best, his father, grandfather and grandmother. Acting runs in the Douglas family and also includes Michael's wife, Cameron's stepmother and Kirk and Diana's daughter-in-law—Oscar winner Catherine Zeta-Jones. *Reuters*

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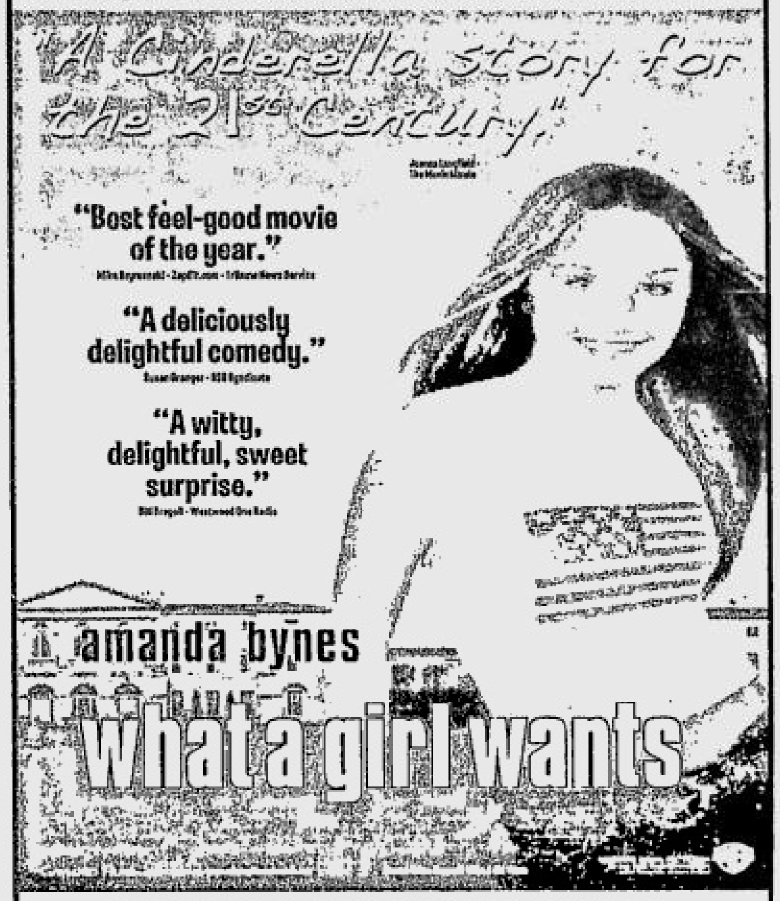

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Ali 6	JUNGLE BOOK 2
Ali 7	WHAT A GIRL WANTS

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TIMES	HARRY POTTER · THEV

QUEZON CITY

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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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CORONET A	PUNLA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	PUNLA
REMAR	BOLDSTAR
REMAR-2	PUNLA

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A	PUNLA
B	BOLD STAR
C	

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CINEMA-2	THE JUNGLE BOOK 2

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CINEMA-1	KASIPING
CINEMA-2	BOLDSTAR
CINEMA-3	PUNLA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PHONE BOOTH
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KANGAROO JACK
CINEMA-6	SEX DRIVE
CINEMA-7	THE CORE
CINEMA-8	KAULAYAW
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANGER MANAGEMENT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-12	A MAN APART
CINEMA-14	EQUILIBRIUM
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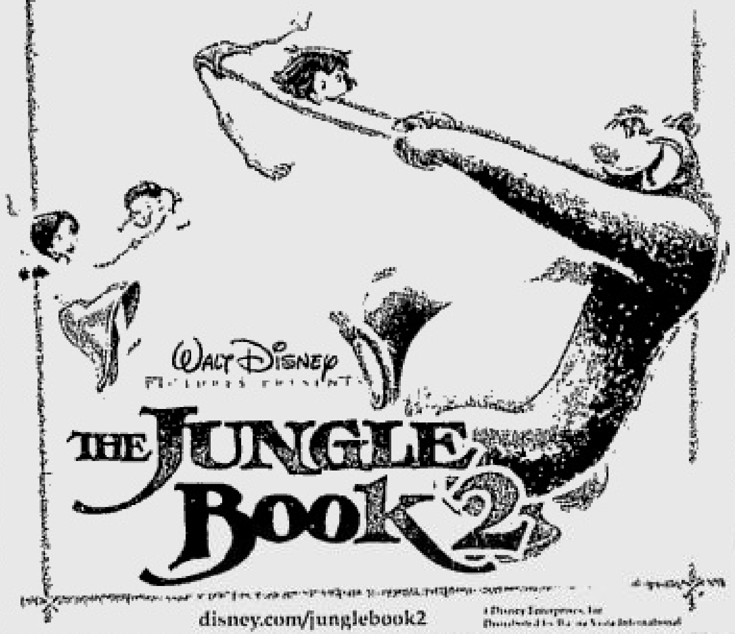

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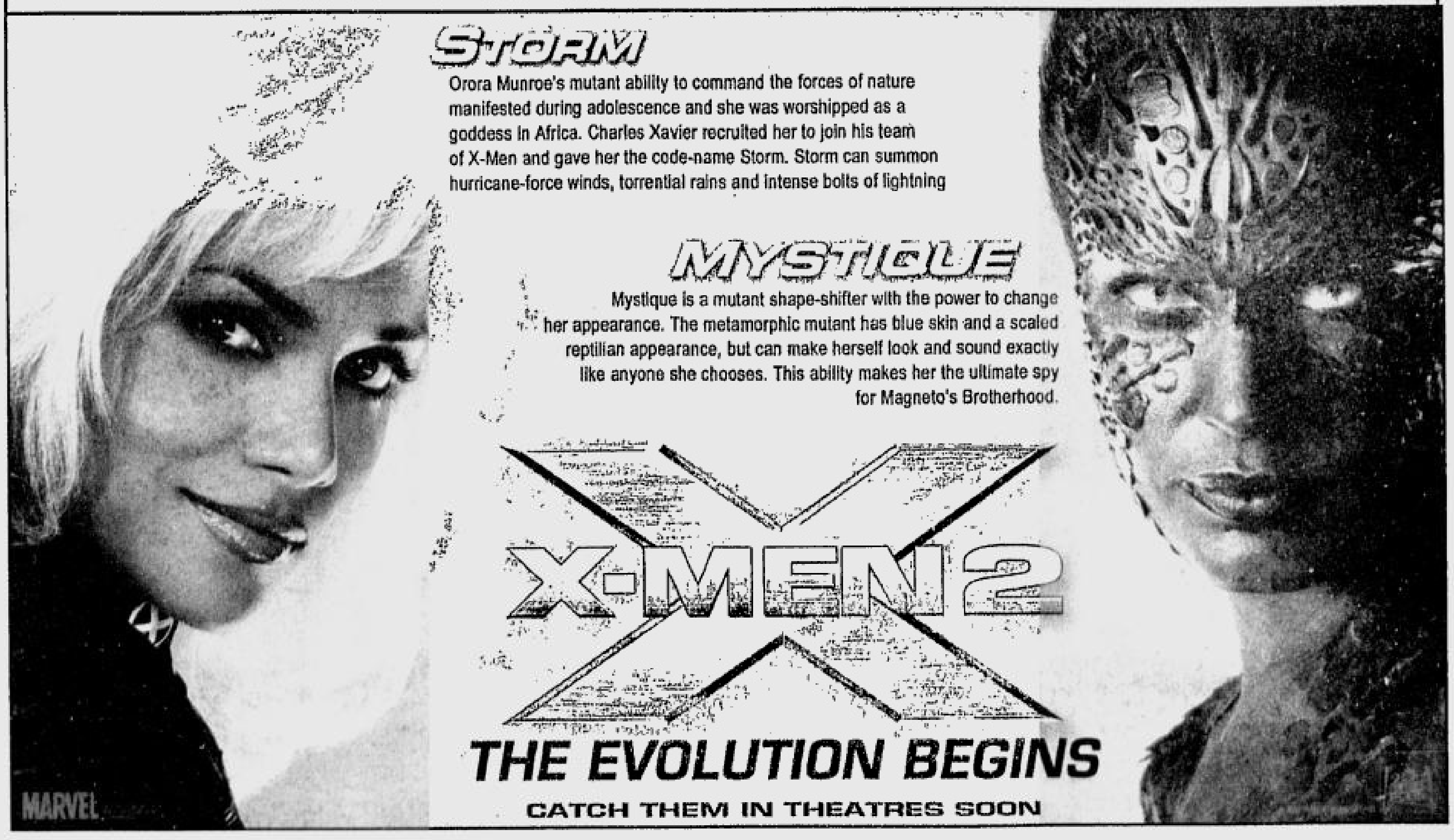

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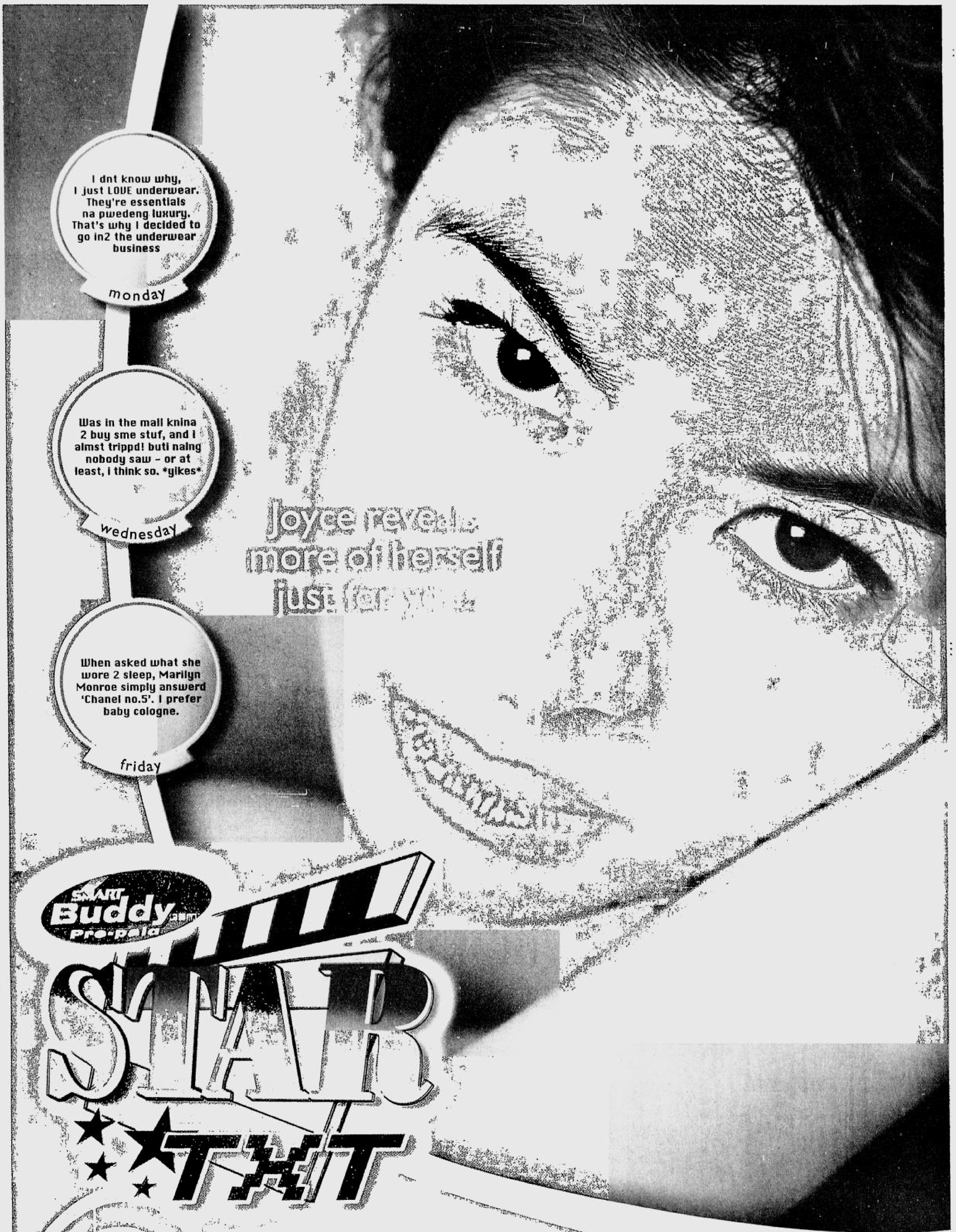
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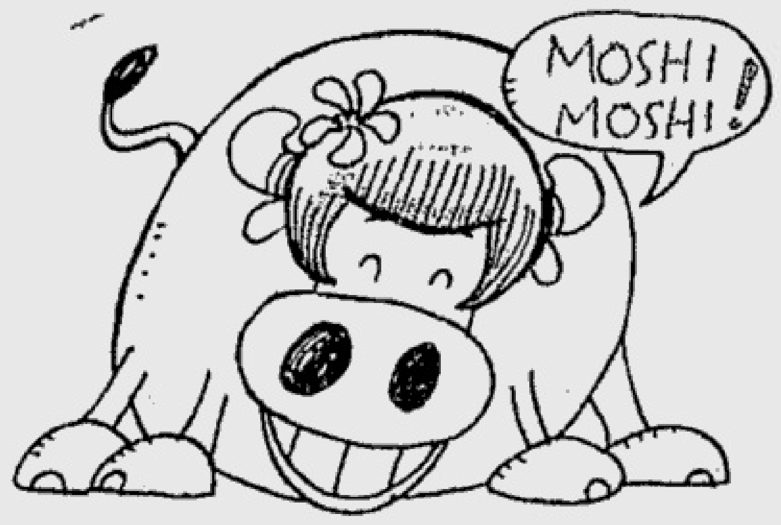
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Junior Inquirer

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2003 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 7, NUMBER 29

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

Kid in Space Page 2
Story: The Big Black Cat in the Mango Tree Page 4
The Lunch Box Page 6

The Friendly

OHAYO! WATASHI WA ANDREA DESU.
HAZEL HERE!
NI HAO! I'M MARGERY!
SELAMAT PAGI! AKO SI ROSELYN.
MIKO, ANO RAW?
EWAN JUSTIN, SMILE KA NA LANG.
MARK HERE! SIMON'S ABSENT.

By Eline Santos

CAN you live with a family that speaks a whole other language and eats raw fish for dinner?

Well, eight Pinoy kids will do just that in July because they've just been picked to represent the country in this year's Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka, Japan. So they'll have to learn some Japanese, pick up their food with chop sticks and develop a liking for sushi. Yum!

This year's delegates: Hazel Monique Hernandez, Andrea Trishia Santos, and Margery Pauline Bumagat of Miriam College; Roselyn Ko of St. Benedict's College; Justin Gaston of Manresa School; Miko Centeno of Ateneo Grade School; and Mark de Leon and Simon Aranas of Xavier School.

Eight Pinoy kids are off to convene with kids from 45 other countries...in the land of anime, sushi and chopsticks

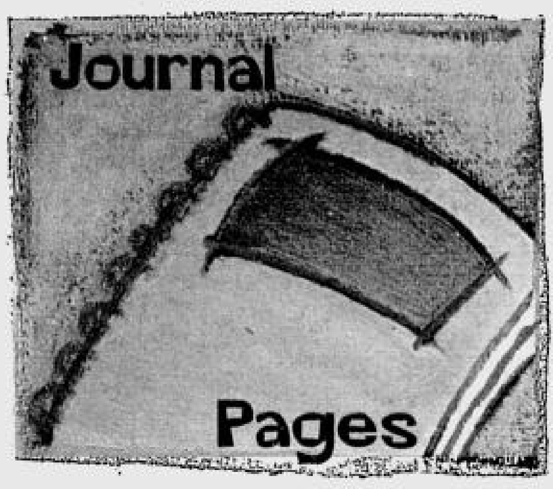
Already in its 15th year, the convention brings together children from 45 countries to learn about each other's culture and understand other people better.

"We will meet new friends—play together and talk about stuff we like. Just like my friends here," says Justin, an incoming fifth-grader.

The kids say the convention is for building bridges of friendship.

"It's for international awareness," adds Andrea, an incoming sixth-grader and president of their Culture Club in school.

After five days with children from around the world, the junior ambassadors will be adopted by foster families to experience Japanese culture. Mark, 11, is excited to learn about Japan's culture while Justin is worried about messing up his host family's house. Oh, they'll be fine! *Sayonara* kids! And *kiotsukete*!



One day, I'd like to...

By Alessandra Poblador
International School Manila

ONE day, I'd like to walk on the moon. Even though I'd rather be a surgeon than an astronaut, I would just like to experience being in space.

Ever since I heard that Neil Armstrong had set foot on the moon in 1969, I had wanted to do it myself. I even thought of becoming an astronaut instead! I mean to be the first person to walk on a place different from Earth. It would just amaze people, especially the kids. Sometimes, I even wonder how many front-page newspapers this will hit...

These boots are made for walking!

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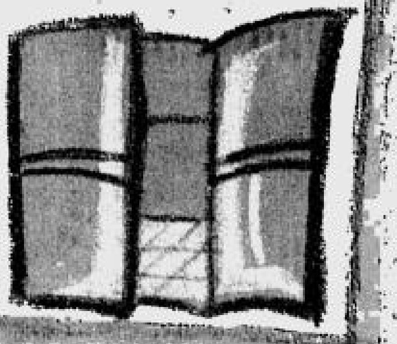

Hamon ng Panahon

ANG inaasahan ko sa aking paglaki ay malinis at maayos na pamayanan. Pero ngayon, sa aking nakikita, mukhang hindi na mangyayari ang aking inaasahan. Ngayon, madumi na ang ating kapaligiran. Madumi na din ang ating mga anyong tubig at hanging nalalanghap. Sino pa ba ang gustong manirahan sa paligid na ganito—magulo at madumi? Hindi ba wala? Sana ay may magawa ang ating pamahalaan sa lalong madaling panahon. Sana ay wala nang problemang dumagdag pa. Sana ay tulungan tayo ng mga nakapuwesto sa gobyerno hindi lamang tuwing dumarating ang eleksyon kung hindi araw-araw. At sana naman sa aming paglaki hindi mas malalang problema ang aming haharapin kundi masaya at masiglang buhay. Nawa'y maging masagana at mapayapa ang bawat isa.—**JESSICA IO O. ANGELES**, 11, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

LINIS MGA KAPATID!

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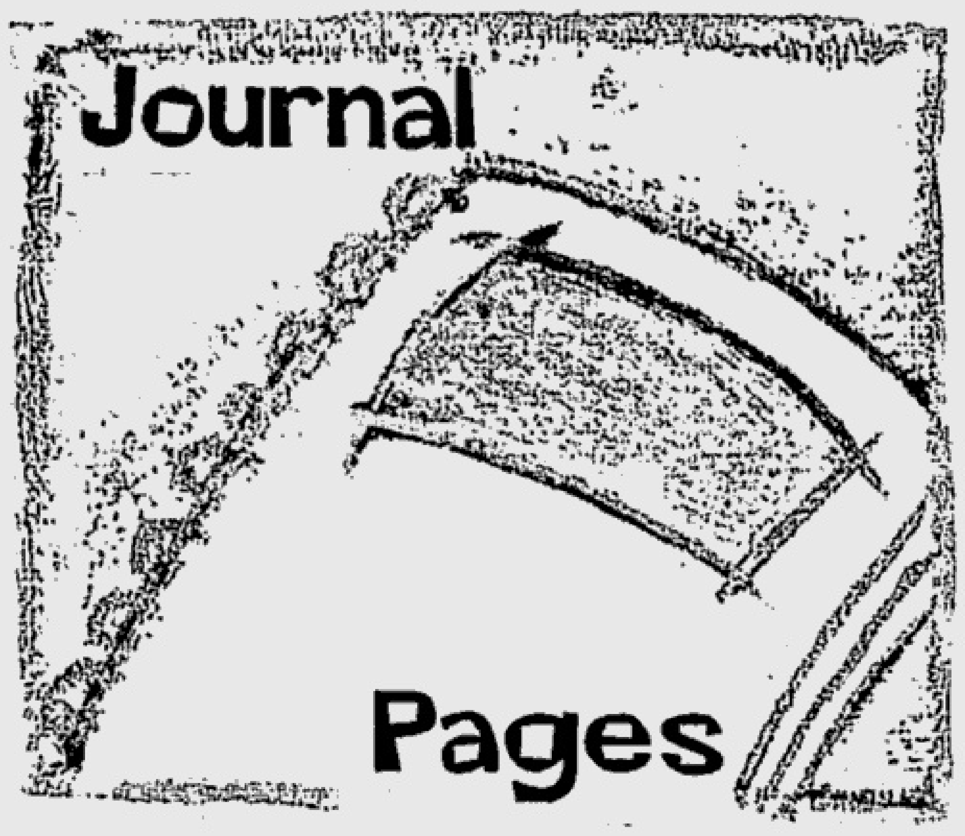

By Alessandra Poblador
International School Manila

These boots are made for walking!

ONE day, I'd like to walk on the moon. Even though I'd rather be a surgeon than an astronaut, I would just like to experience being in space.

Ever since I heard that Neil Armstrong had set foot on the moon in 1969, I had wanted to do it myself. I even thought of becoming an astronaut instead! I mean to be the first person to walk on a place different from Earth. It would just amaze people, especially the kids. Sometimes, I even wonder how many front-page newspapers this will hit...

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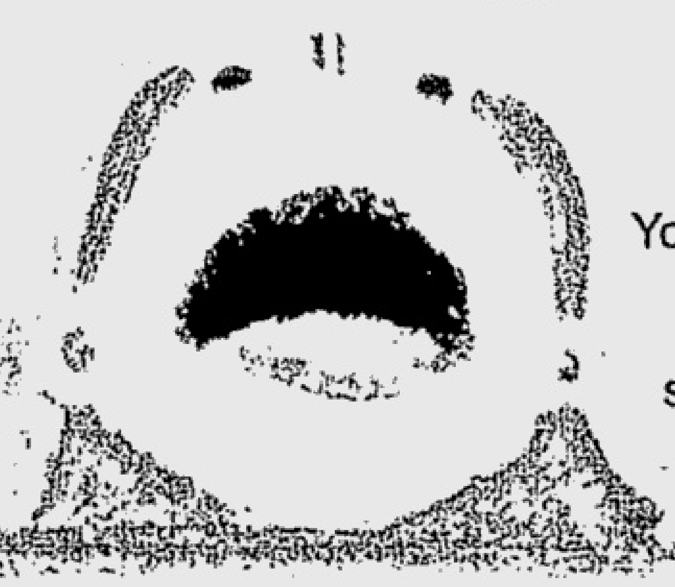

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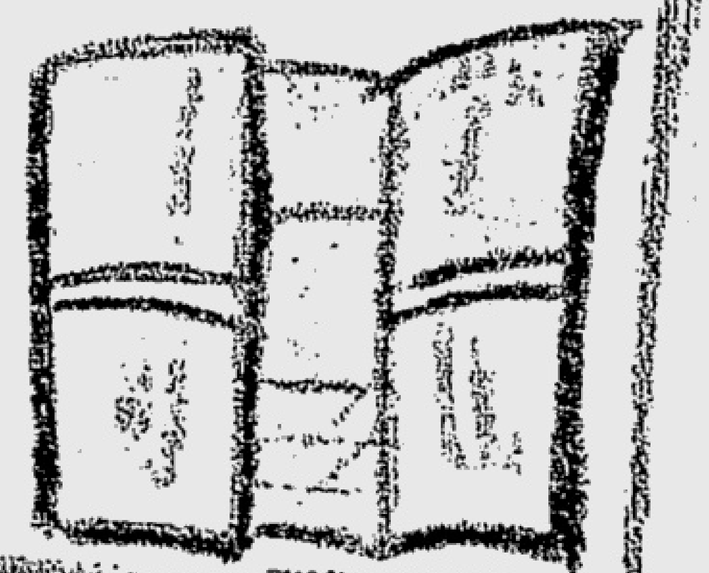

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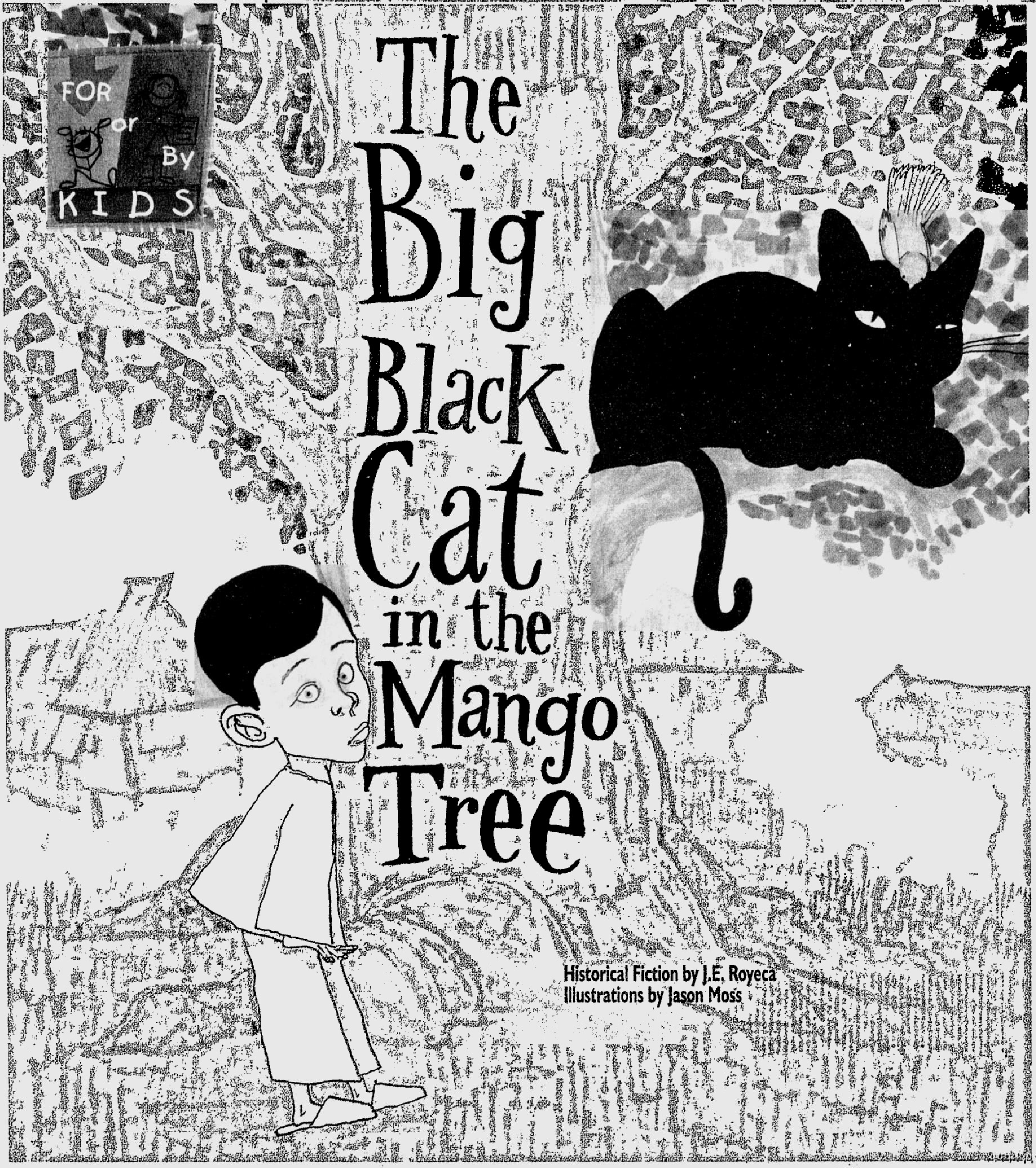


The Big Black Cat in the Mango Tree

Historical Fiction by J.E. Royeca
Illustrations by Jason Moss

TONDO, Manila, 1871

That afternoon, a young boy named Andres Bonifacio and his friends were playing hide-and-seek in the trees and orchards of Tondo. When Andres was hiding behind the plants, he saw their hunchback neighbor walking toward the Binondo creek.

Andres and his friends feared the hunchback because of his bulky back, limping feet, and contorted face. He was carrying a sack. Andres noticed that something was moving inside the sack. It looked like it was trying to get out of there but the ugly hunchback kept it in. Andres did not mind it and went back to playing with his friends again.

The following morning, when Andres got up off his bed, he heard no singing birds. That made him wonder. Birds always chirped in the morning. He went to the window to find out why. He saw no birds. What he saw was a big and stout black cat perched on a huge branch in the middle of the tree.

Andres raced to the mango tree. He looked closely at the cat. It had big, round eyes, a long black tail, and white whiskers on its chin, sides of the mouth, and above the eyes. When the cat saw him, it opened its mouth, let out some sounds as if it were meowing, and revealed its long and pointed tusks. At first glance, it was a fearsome cat.

Andres realized that this cat might have scared the birds away. Its scary sounds were fearful enough for the birds. Since cats liked to eat birds, the birds naturally moved elsewhere.

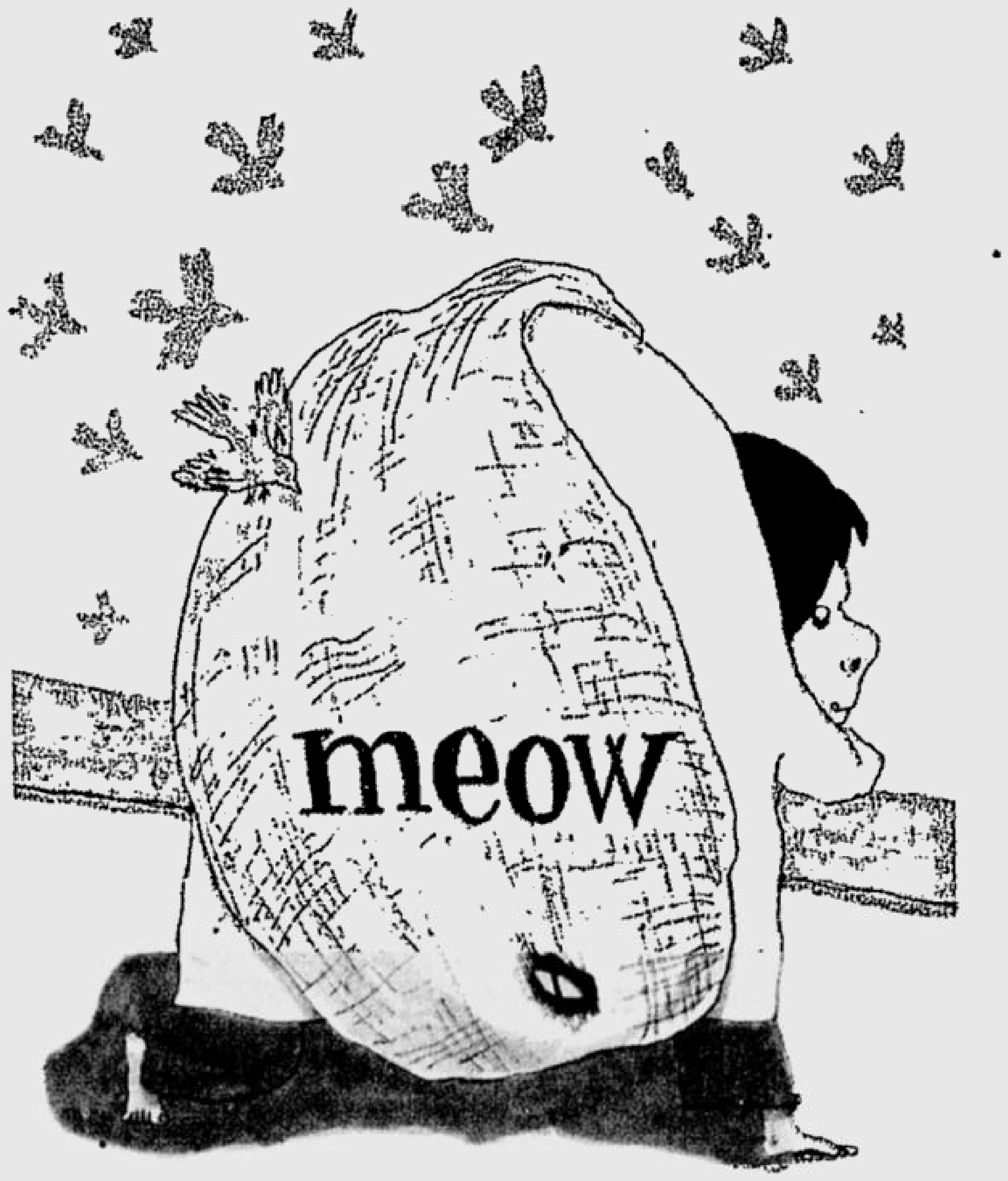
He shooed the cat. The cat jumped down the tree and ran. Andres waited all day for the birds to return but they did not. He could only blame that big black cat.

THE NEXT morning, the birds had not yet returned to the mango tree. Andres again saw the big black cat sleeping on that huge branch. He came out of the house to again awake and drive it away from the tree.

Days came but still there were no birds because the black cat kept coming back to the tree and was already living there. One morning, when Andres was to shoo the cat again, he noticed that it was weak and it looked hungry. He pitied it.

He felt sorrier when he heard it utter some cries. He went inside the house to get food. He put meat and fish on a polished coconut shell and placed that shell at the foot of the tree.

The cat, though it was looking at the food, did not go down. Andres thought that it was afraid of him so he went back to the house. From a small hole, he observed it. The cat climbed down and ate all the meat and fish. Andres slowly emerged from the house with some more food. The cat, upon seeing him, prepared to dash off but Andres gently called it.



"Ming, ming, come here. I won't hurt you," Andres assured the cat, giving it food.

The cat looked at him before eating the food. Andres slowly approached the cat. He touched its head, stroked its back slightly, and cuddled it. He felt that it was really a big, stocky black cat. It had some weight.

"From now on, you'll be my pet," Andres joyously said. The cat meowed as an answer.

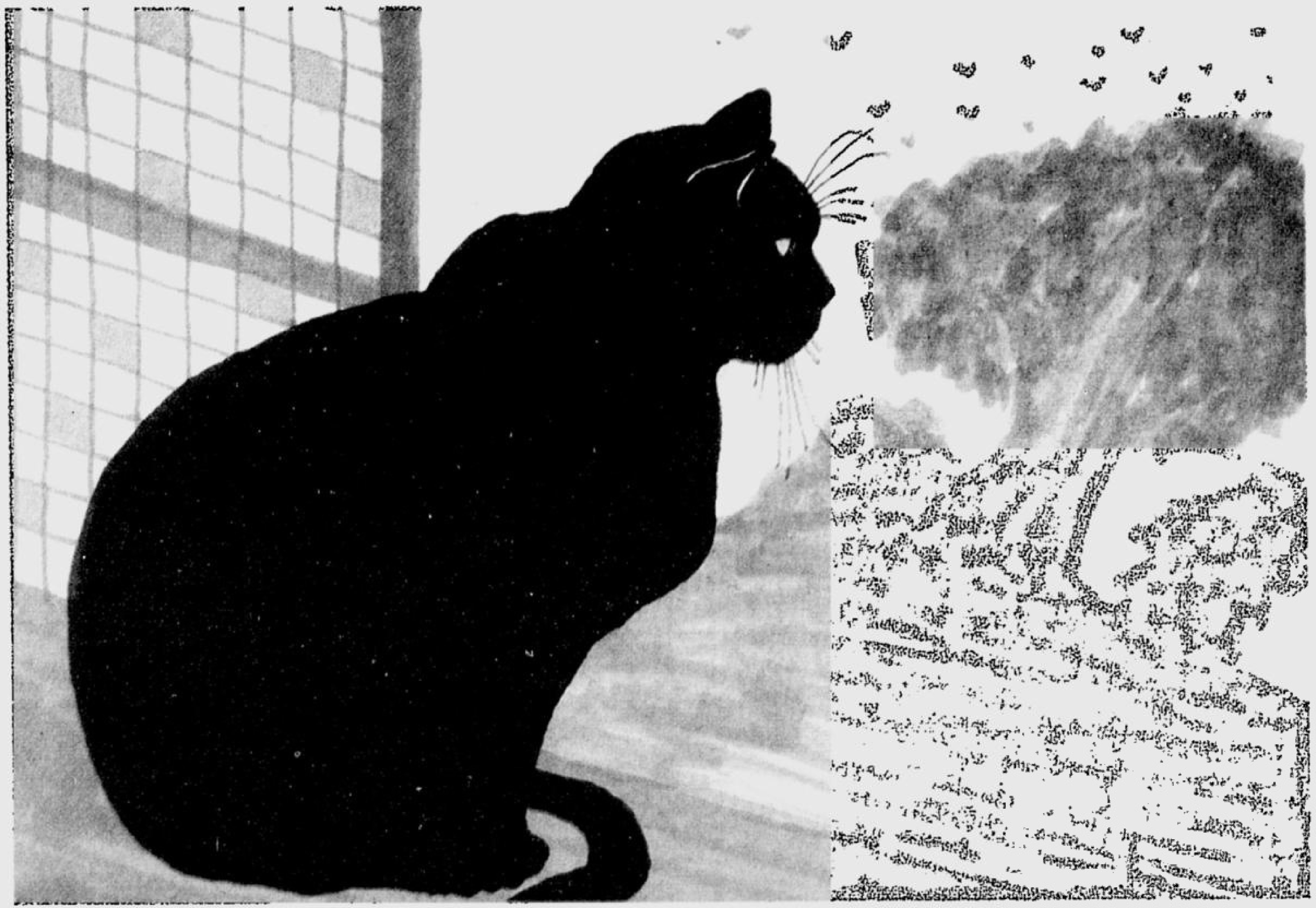
"Isn't that the cat the hunchback threw in the creek?" his father asked him when he brought the cat inside the house.

Andres was surprised. This could be the thing inside the sack that the hunchback was carrying many days ago. Andres was very happy with his new pet. He found out that it was a male cat. He gave him a name, Kulit. He fed him twice a day, gave him clean drinking water, and bathed him. He also let him sleep in his room, at the foot of his *papag*.

After some days, the birds had returned to the mango tree. Andres told Kulit to never go up on the tree again. Kulit listened but when Andres was not around, he would go to the window to watch those singing birds. While watching, he was purring, his big eyes were bulging, and he was continuously licking his long pointed tusks.

J.E. loves writing historical fiction for kids.

***Jason** is a painter, illustrator and editorial cartoonist. His new illustrated series, "Aesop's Fables," is already out.*



THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

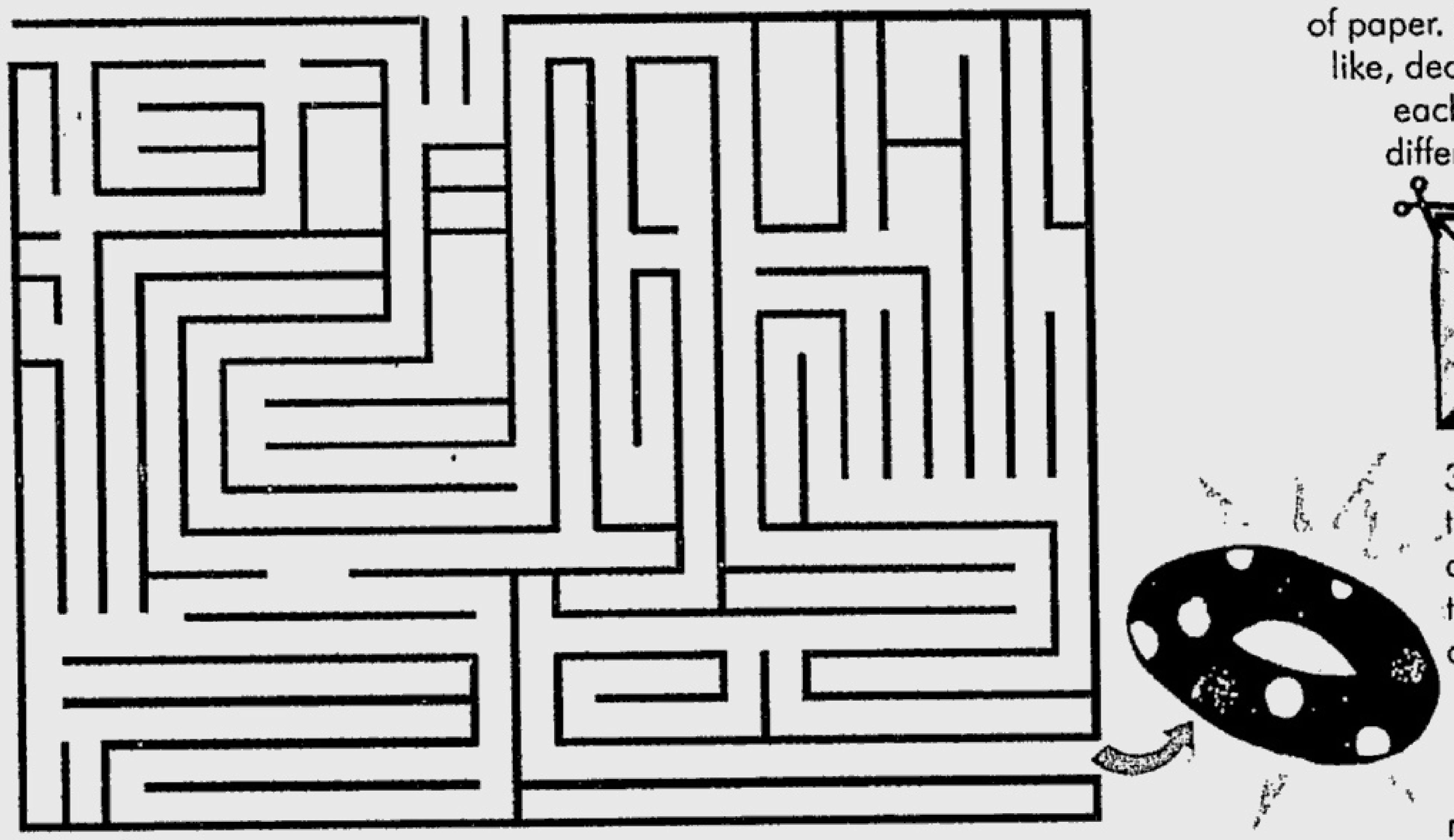
Q: How many bones does the human body have?

a. 305
b. 740
c. 206

Hey! I didn't know that!

Answer: C

Where's my Salbabida?



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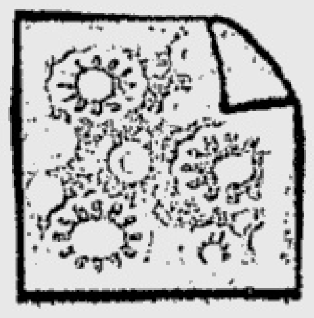
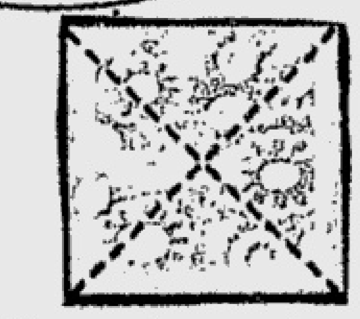
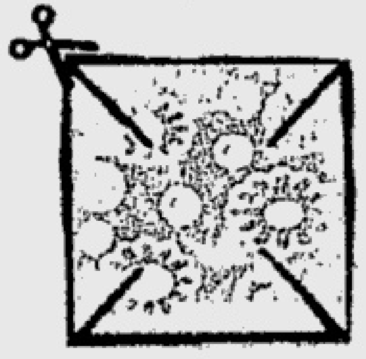


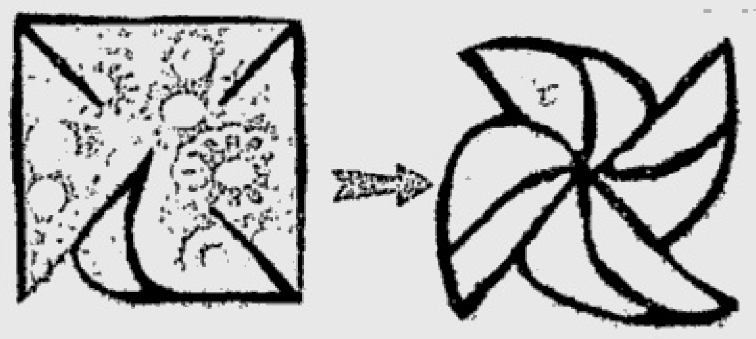
1. Start with a SQUARE sheet of paper. If you like, decorate each side differently.



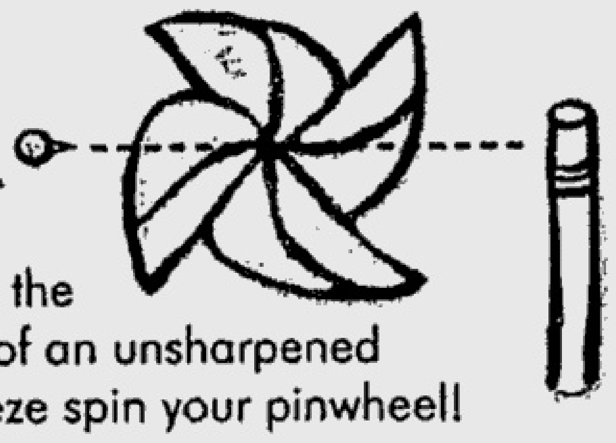
2. With a ruler and pencil, lightly draw an "X" through your paper.



3. Cut along the lines, but only half-way to the center of your paper.



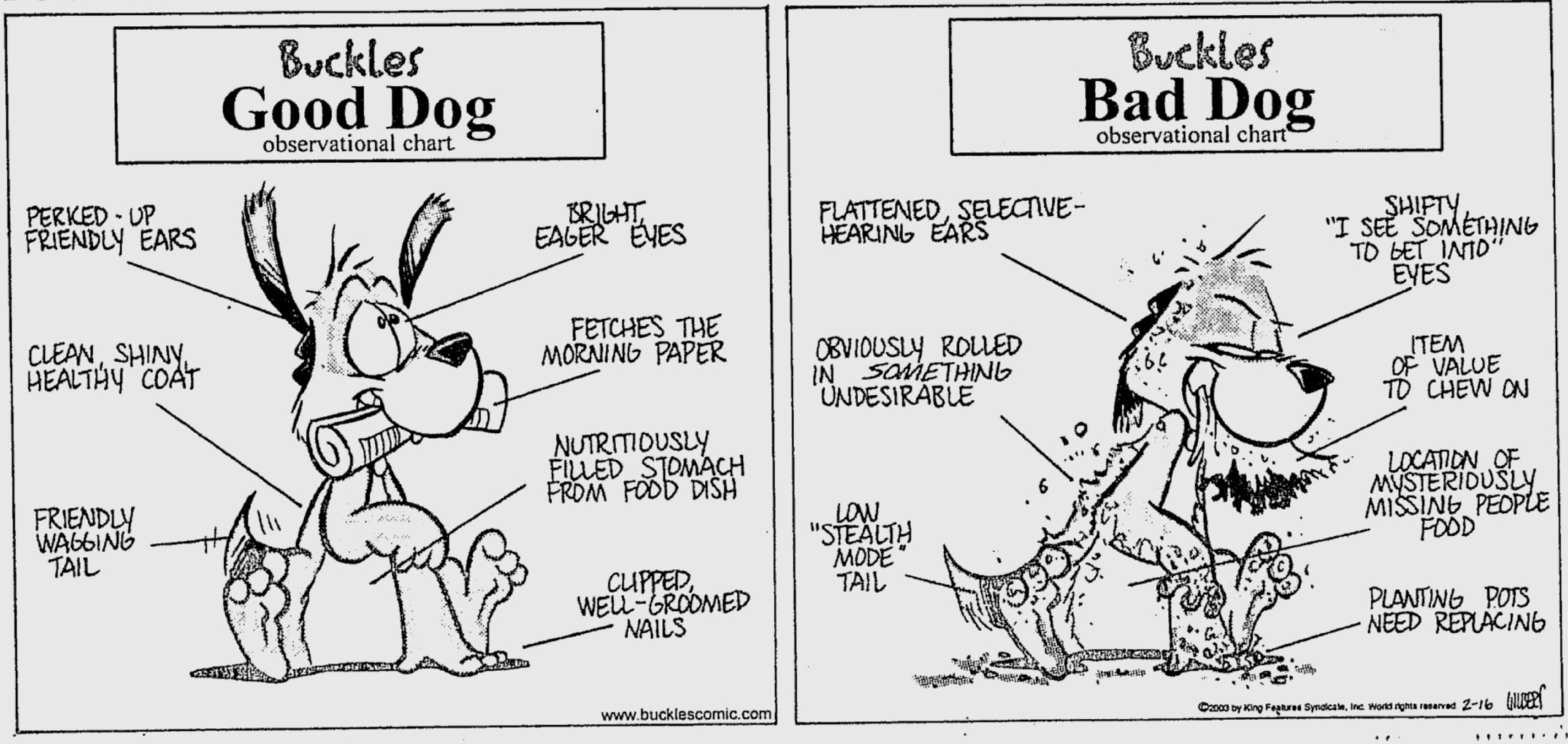
4. Fold every other corner toward the center. Tape in place.



5. Push a pin through the middle, into the eraser of an unsharpened pencil or stick. Let the breeze spin your pinwheel!

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT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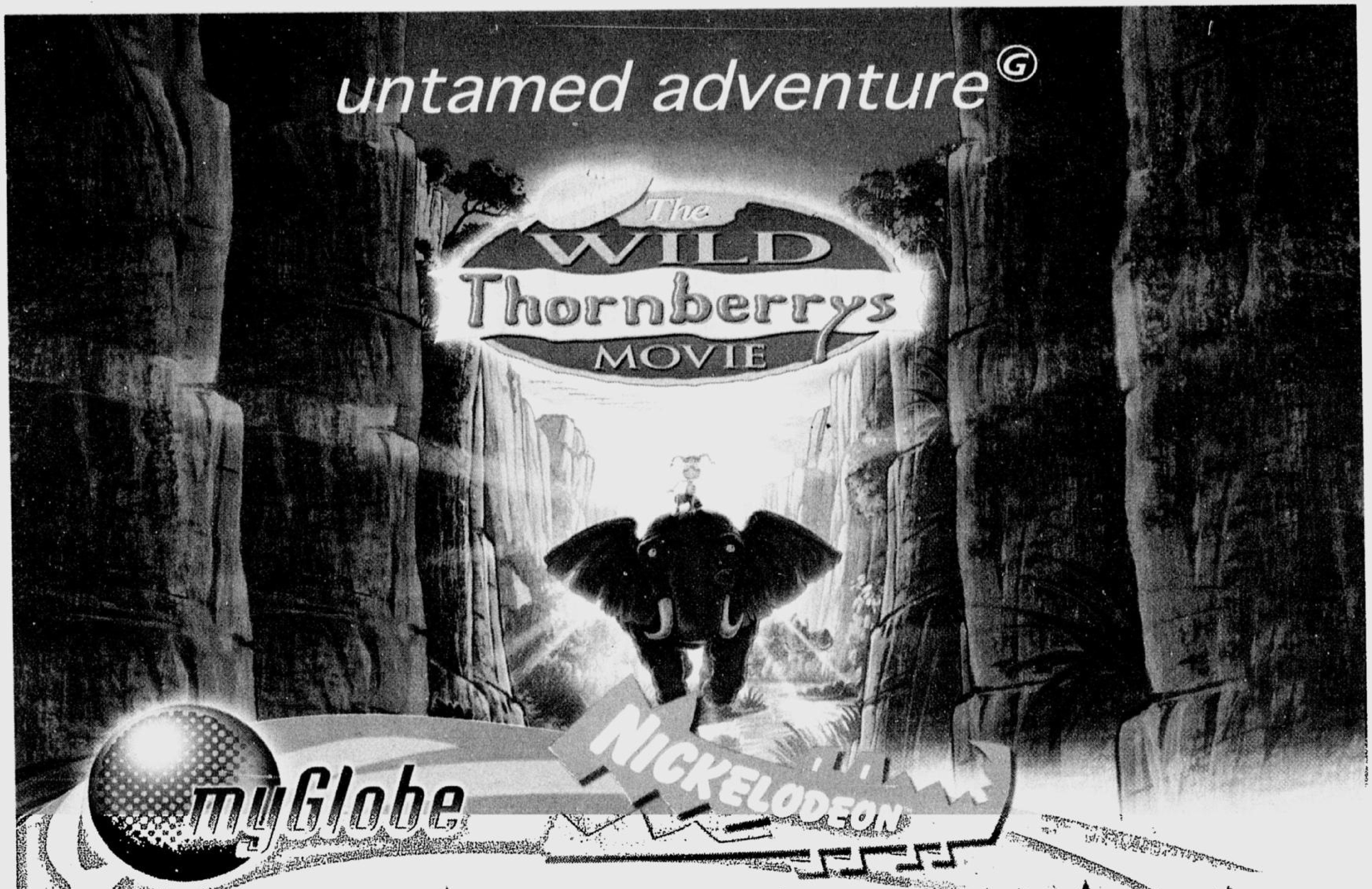
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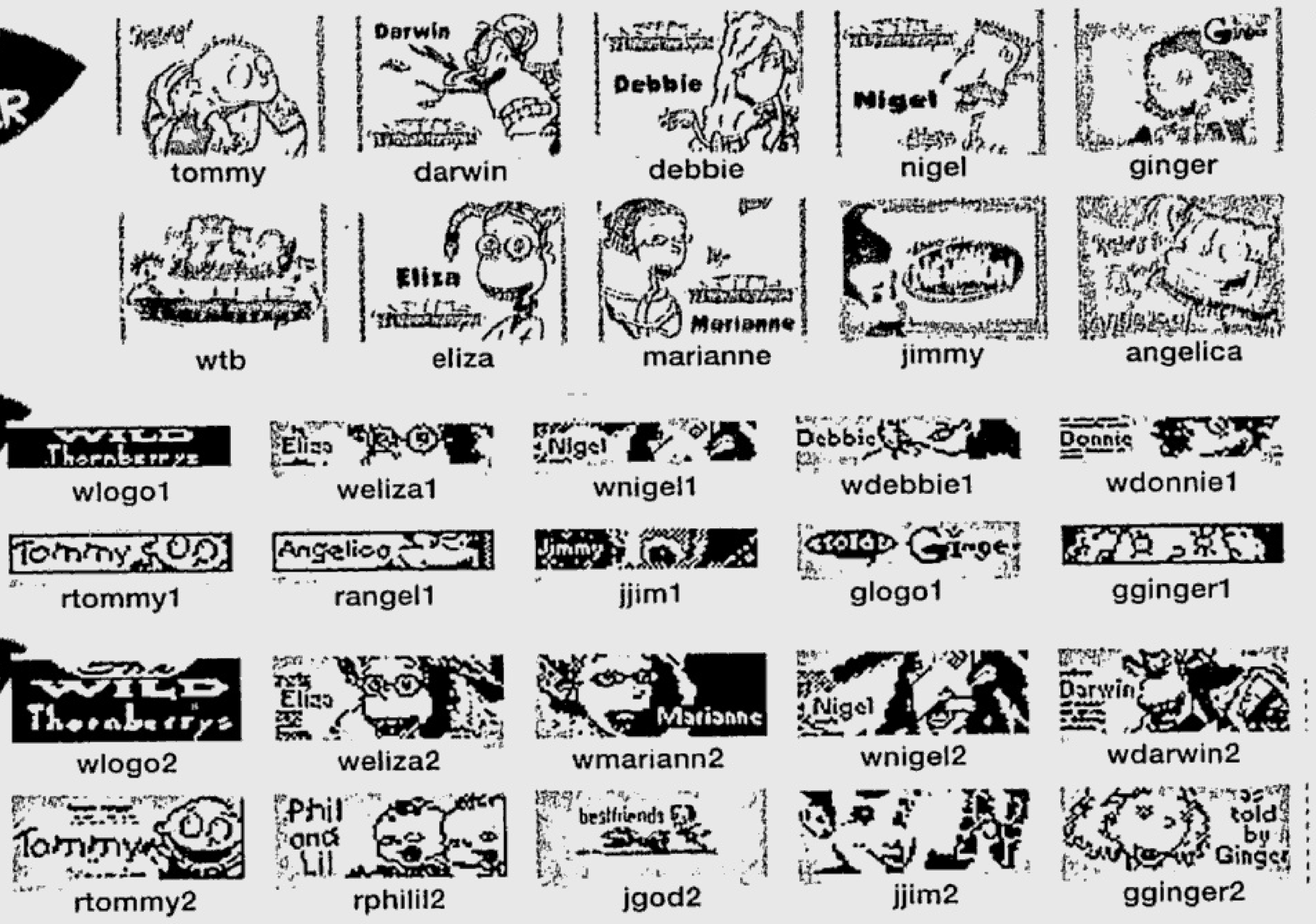
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